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## THE INTERVAL.

NEVER was the country so much put to it for something to talk about. Everybody looks towards Paris and the Conference; but, how can the public know anything, yet, of what goes on there? It is amusing to see the attempts made by "Paris Correspondents" to look as if they had heard anything of what is said and done at the diplomatic table. They can know nothing; so they hint, look wise, shake the head, and tell us, in one and the same breath, that all goes on peacefully; but that they are much mistaken if all will be as smooth as optimists fancy. This was the Vicar of Wakefield's plan: he used to say, in dubious matters, that "he hoped all would be well this time twelvemonths"; so that whatever happened, he always had the credit of a sound and discreet forethought.

There is but one point in which we can feel any confidence, and that is, our (the public's) state of mind as to the matter. We can know what we will be satisfied with. Of an improper haste to pronounce for war, no diplomatist need be suspected. The upper classes all through Europe are determined to end the war, if they can: that is absolutely certain. The Ministry even—created and maintained by it—may be believed not eager to run its risks farther, since a Peace now leaves Lord Palmerston the most successful statesman of his time. And who knows what a campaign might bring forth? To be sure, the Kars affair was scandalous, but it was a distant scene, and the details have not had a William Russell. Bunglers, in one respect, are like heroes—their fame fares according to the bard they get. Nobody rages about Kars, because the story of Kars has not had a "graphic" narrator. So we repeat, in spite of that affair, and of recent appointments and decorations, Palmerston comes better out of the business than anybody: and he is too old and too dexterous a stager, not to be able to turn his *prestige* to account when the peace throws open the public arena again to party combats. We shall have "sweeping reforms" to discuss, proposed by men who will triumphantly quote their own failures as grounds for them, and who will profit by their own defects, as the man in the Mississippi mania made a fortune by his hump.

Indeed, the matter lies chiefly between the Czar and the British public, diplomatists not being, at bottom, as important items in such affairs as they used to be. If these two can satisfy each other, all will go well. The Czar knows that he is not a Nicholas; and it is an off-set against the advantages of a despotism, that so much depends on the despot, just as with free countries, it is an off-set against their bad administrations, that the public zeal can do good service. Not only is he not a Nicholas, but he has lost the flower of his father's troops, and of his Southern possessions. He will make all the concessions he dare, all that his subjects will let him. He will do so precisely in proportion as he finds the English people ready to fight. The moment there is a "hitch"—and we shall be sure to hear something authentic *then*, for our Ministry will whistle to its "public," as a man in danger does to his dog—people must be ready to speak out. If it be "Nicolaieff," we must be as steady as granite. No peace till the Bug is harmless! Our navy has not yet had its turn, and it longs for it. Every sailor feels that the red-jacket has beaten the blue-jacket; and that John Bull is grumbling at his favourite profession. We have troops well capable of maintaining their present position—all things considered, no mean one. And it is the blue-jackets' turn next. So that we

need be in no eagerness to avoid a fresh struggle; and need not let the re-action which naturally occurs during the lull of an armistice overcome our energy too far. This readiness is not incompatible with the most polite willingness to accept an honourable peace, on such terms as we have a right to believe Russia intends to offer, by offering negotiations at all. We make these remarks, because we observe that the universal talk of peace has made thousands fancy peace certain; while fancy makes them languid about all war chances, which languor helps the diplomatists of Russia.

In the interval, we are at our old business—a general overhaul of the British nest for the instruction of Europe. It is all very well for the hacks of bunglers to tell us, à la "Saturday Review," that

turn to the very interesting "motion" in question, though it *was* withdrawn. The motion is gone; but the system it exposed, is here: and the whole debate was instructive. It was rich in facts which nobody can deny, and which nobody seems likely to remedy.

Sir de Lacy Evans is a man whose experience has been great, and whose veracity is unquestionable. What does he tell us? 1st, That when Colonel Gordon said the "general officers refused to receive the knapsacks," he said what could not be proved. 2nd, That the losses from sickness were in some cases 50 or 60 per cent., so that we need not wonder facts are kept back. 3rd, That one regiment (apparently the 46th) was landed in heavy rains, with nobody to receive it, and nearly disappeared. 4th, That lime-juice was kept back, while scurvy

was raging, and that "returns" in such medical matters are still suppressed. 5th, That officers were put in charge of high and important departments, who had not been in the field for 20, or even sometimes 40, years. 6th, That Colonel Gordon, the deputy-Quartermaster-General, absolutely brought him (Evans) an order to capture a convoy, when no convoy was in the place indicated, and to go there, would have caused useless slaughter. 7th, That the Turkish Contingent was absurdly ordered about from place to place. 8th, That Dragoons were sent to Kertch, a place unfit for cavalry, and afterwards, by a series of blunders, kept 29 days on board ship.

Now, why detail these facts? Because people are too careless to read them when spread over three columns of the "Times"; and because Lord Palmerston could absolutely make no answer to this important speech, except that it was "of a personal character"; as if that was not its inevitable character, and its value into the bargain. How on earth criticise men's doings without criticising men? Or, are the horses and the gun-carriages to blame, and not "persons" at all?

Lord C. Hamilton turned on the General, with the accusation that he had advised Raglan to retreat after Inkermann. The General showed that the accusation was overdone; and we do not at all wonder that Sir de Lacy should have advised what he did. He may think now, that his advice was as well not followed, but that is no reason he should repent that advice. There is a case exactly in point, told by Pintarch of Phocion, though we do not wonder it never occurred to Lord C. Hamilton! His "vindication" of Colonel Gordon resolved itself into a transfer of the blunder to the shoulders of Raglan, who, being dead, is of course a safe man to blame.

Considering that Government had the Report which occasioned this discussion, *seven months* on hand, it is wonderful they have got up the case no better. Here we had Palmerston justifying the Cardigan appointment, on the ground of an anonymous authority's having called him "a good

cavalry officer"; as if we did not know that his cavalry starved under his command. In fact, the Premier justifies his appointments in the teeth of the Report of the Commission; and says we ought not to anticipate the coming "board of general officers," when the very point in debate is, whether that board is a proper tribunal. This is begging the question with a vengeance! We doubt whether a handful of prejudiced old men is a proper tribunal; and we are told that we must wait for the judgment of the old men. This is an insult to our common sense, as the blunders above-mentioned were to our national honour. It is well known that the board is to consist of orthodox, old military pedants (and no pedant is worse than a military one), who will view the matter entirely from the point of view of the



COUNT ORLOFF, THE RUSSIAN PLENIPOTENTIARY AT THE PEACE CONFERENCES.—(FROM A PAINTING BY PROFESSOR KRUGER, OF BERLIN.)

we had best hold our tongues, for fear of disgracing ourselves abroad. The fact is, that it is an astounding proof of our vitality, and an encouraging symptom, that our system bears this publicity so well. Besides which, we are all very well aware, that to hold our tongues is to ensure our destruction, and that to expose our blunders is the only chance we have of mending them, and the lesser of the two evils. We were very glad of Mr. Roebuck's debate of the 29th ult. We admit that the Opposition is perfectly right *at present* in not joining Mr. Roebuck. But the country ought to have the general facts well brought before them. Let us have no scandalous hypocrisy. We have disgraced ourselves, and honoured the people who have helped us; and the whole affair is very curious as a study. Let us



men inculpated. They are to turn out the public whenever they please; that is, whenever it is most the interest of the public to be present. Nor is it clear what their powers are, and what they are going to decide. In fact, the officers to whose "explanations" they are to listen, ought to have been brought to a court-martial long since, when their shameful want of military conduct was first shown. Byng was shot for conduct which in our time would have ensured his being made Lord High Admiral. This is not a flourish of rhetoric, but a plain and provable fact.

We are not at all apprehensive that these discussions will imperil the peace. It is, indeed, right, in point of forms, for great parties not to embarrass the ministry while negotiations are in progress; but, that the country, in the widest sense, should show its disgust at past blockheadism, and its zeal for future energy, is a phenomenon rather favourable to peace than otherwise. When potentates see that we hate and repudiate the mediocrities who have disgraced us, and mean to have better men for the future, they will augur well of our persistency, and be likely to concede our rights. If we cannot get better men, let us know the worst at once, and face it. But we do not believe that England is "used up" yet, though Mr. F. Peel is in office; and though fools and cowards employ the present interval of suspense in truckling to powers which can only be awed by cheerful resolution.

#### COUNT ORLOFF.

In our last week's number, we gave a short biographical notice of Count Orloff, the Russian Peace Plenipotentiary. It appears that of all the distinguished foreigners now present in Paris, Count Orloff is the one about whom the most curiosity is manifested by the Parisians. The other day, at the magnificent *fête* which was given by Count Walewski, at the hotel of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, in honour of the representatives of the European Powers, Count Orloff was the object of considerable attention. He is said to be 70 years of age, but appears fifteen years younger, and is a wonderful-looking man for his age. He is of large size, very erect, and his countenance denotes robust health and great resolution. He has a very large head, covered with iron-gray hair, cropped close, and is, altogether, what may be called a portly-looking person, of a military aspect, and, whether from associations connected with his name or not, people remarked something like an expression of sternness on his countenance. He was in a plain evening dress, and wore two stars composed of brilliants on his left breast, with a broad blue ribbon *en écharpe*. His deportment was extremely quiet, his whole manner one of repose; and with the ease of a grand Russian nobleman, and with that elegance of manner which seems so charming when allied with military bearing, he conversed readily with the various groups which in succession collected round him.

Count Orloff, in fact, is the "lion" of the day; the fairer portion of humankind, whose taste is as little likely to be disputed in Paris as an ukase in Russia, speak most favourably of him. Though far beyond that medieval term which awakes a feeling more partaking of veneration than of sentiment, the Parisian ladies admire him much, and, as has been observed, evidently look upon him as something between "Abelard and old Blucher."

Count Orloff, on encountering Marshal Baraguay d'Hilliers in the *salons* of the Tuileries, is said to have observed smilingly, "Ah! M. le Marshal, it is you, I think, who lately visited our country." "Yes, Count," replied the Marshal, "it is I who had the pleasure of leaving a card at Bomarsund."

### Foreign Intelligence.

#### FRANCE.

THE Legislative session was opened on Monday by the Emperor in person at the Tuileries, in the Salle des Maréchaux, with a speech, which will be found in another column. The speech was received with loud and enthusiastic applause; and the Emperor was most enthusiastically received in his passage to and from the Salle des Maréchaux; but the language of the speech was considered much cooler in regard to the prospect of peace than was anticipated, and a certain degree of disapprobation was manifested throughout Paris that more had not been said regarding the state of the negotiations.

The budget laid before the Corps Legislatif shows receipts exceeding by 19,220,000 francs and expenditure exceeding by 96,770,636 francs the same items in the budget of last year. The excess of receipts is estimated at 15,417,348 francs.

The Emperor has given his sanction to the draft of a bill for advancing 100,000,000 francs to agriculturists, to be employed in draining.

It is rumoured that in case of the birth of a prince, his title will be "King of Algeria," and that Prince Napoleon will be appointed Viceroy, taking up his residence in Algiers.

Admiral Bruat's widow has been designated for the high position of governess to the expected infant of France; and that Madame de Brancion, widow of the colonel killed before Sebastopol, is to be sub-governess.

#### SPAIN.

THE rumour that General Canrobert was to replace M. Turgot, as Ambassador at Madrid, does not appear to be correct. It is probable, however, that M. Turgot will shortly quit that capital, his health have never been properly re-established since he was wounded in the duel with M. Soulé. Nothing, however, has been decided as to his successor.

A banquet to the Representatives of the Credit Mobilier Company took place on the 28th ult., the statutes of the Company having been presented to the Government. Everything was tranquil at Malaga and elsewhere.

#### AUSTRIA.

It is stated that the Austrian Government has requested the Pope to direct the Italian bishops to take no steps towards the realisation of certain conditions of the Concordat, until the Imperial ordinances which refer to them have been published.

The Finance Minister has proposed a further reduction in the budget of the War Department.

#### PRUSSIA.

A PROPOSITION has been laid before the Prussian Chamber making two demands; one, that the question of the Sound Dues should be entered on, seeing that the present treaty is about to expire; the other, that an end should be put to the Russian prohibitory system and its close frontier, with guarantees for the future.

Accounts from Berlin state that the Czar will throw no impediments in the way of peace, as the want of money and men is becoming more manifest to the Russian Government, and the intention of the Czar to devote himself to the development of the internal resources of his empire is openly talked of in the most august circles.

#### RUSSIA.

THE "Austrian Gazette" contains an Odessa letter of the 19th February, stating that there is to be a new levy of 23 men in 1,000 throughout the whole Russian empire. The Senate has approved of the measure, and it is about to be sanctioned by the Emperor.

Intelligence from St. Petersburg states that, by the order of the Grand Admiral, the Minister of Marine and the Russian Admiralty had taken measures to withdraw all the maritime signals, such as floating lights, and to discontinue the use of lighthouses.

General Bagration, who commands the reserves of the Caucasus, has been attached to General Liders. The five Governments of Poland are to be reduced to three.

#### DENMARK.

THE KING opened the session of the Supreme Council of the Kingdom on the 1st instant, with unusual pomp, accompanied by the Hereditary Prince and the whole Court. He expressed satisfaction at seeing around him personages from all the monarchy, and said that the welcome which had been given him by the assembly led him to hope for a strong feeling

of union among its members. All parts of the monarchy will be protected against foreign dangers by the attitude assumed by the Government. In thanking God for the maintenance of peace, the King expressed his hope that all threatening eventualities would be every day further removed, and concluded with the announcement that no important project would be brought forward in the present session, but that an extraordinary session would be convoked shortly.

#### TURKEY.

THE decree, making concessions to the Christians, and promulgated on the 21st ult., states that Europeans will have a right to possess landed property; and that, as regards civil rights, there will be a complete equality between Mussulmans and Christians. Any denomination of a nature to express the superiority of one race over another is expressly forbidden. The patriarchs are to be named for life. The clergy will receive a fixed stipend, and the Church property will be managed by an assembly composed of persons of that religion. There will be mixed tribunals. Education will be free, but under the surveillance of mixed commissions. Other reforms are announced, as, for instance, the right granted to provincial and communal councils to take the initiative in grants for public works; as also the establishment of banks, in order to regularise the monetary system of the empire.

An official despatch from Constantinople, of the 28th ult., says that the Turkish Government, in order to relieve commerce, deranged by the heavy fall in prices since peace became probable, has removed the prohibition to export corn, as far as relates to the ports of the Mediterranean, of the Archipelago, and of the Gulf of Venice.

A fearful tempest occasioned much damage in the Bosphorus and in the Golden Horn. The *Alma* and the *Doria* suffered injuries; the *Sylph* ran aground in the Black Sea.

#### AMERICA.

THE United States Mail steamships *Quaker City* and *Persia* arrived at Liverpool on Saturday last with advices from New York to the 20th ult. In the Senate several discussions without result had taken place respecting the affairs of Kansas. In order to arrange his committees without annoyance, the new Speaker, Mr. Banks, had deserted his usual place of residence, and taken lodgings in some undiscovered place of concealment. The State Department had sent to the Senate a mass of documents bearing on the Central American question as far back as 1850.

Mr. Dallas, the new minister to England, was to leave in the *Baltic* on the 5th inst.; his son had been appointed Secretary of Legation.

The Governor of Kansas (Shannon) had left for his post, with full instructions to execute and carry out all the laws of that territory. He carried with him instructions to Colonel Sumner, who had charge of 800 troops, stationed at Fort Leavenworth, to hold himself in readiness for any emergency that might arise.

In Nicaragua affairs were quiet. General Walker had about 1,000 men with him. President Rivaz had issued a decree suspending all official communications with the Ministers of the United States. Mr. Manning, Acting Vice-Consul of the British Government at Realejo, had addressed an official letter to the Minister of Foreign Relations of Nicaragua, in which he sympathises with the Provisional Government of Nicaragua in its endeavours to maintain quiet among its disorganised population, and to bring prosperity to a people reduced to want by aimless revolutions. He assures the Executive of the good will of the British Cabinet while the affairs of the Republic are conducted in accordance with the "usages of the laws of nations."

#### CHINA.

ACCORDING to the advices by the last overland mail, the Chinese rebellion appears to be making head against the Government. In Kwangsi, the rebels have been successful, and have entirely possessed themselves of three prefectures in the province of Kiangsi, which threatens to interrupt the transit from the tea and silk producing country. In the north, also, the province of Honan is said to be in a state of insurrection, but no particulars of the movement have yet been received.

There is also a report that a plague has broken out at Chin-kiang-foo, and carried off upwards of 100,000 persons. It is called the black-tongue plague, from its peculiar symptoms.

At Canton, all remains quiet, but the progress of the rebels is a source of uneasiness.

#### INDIA.

THE despatches by the Overland Mail have arrived. We give the following from the summary of the "Bombay Times" of Feb. 2:—

WARLIKE INTELLIGENCE.—The past fortnight, we regret to say, leaves no room for our customary complaint of want of warlike intelligence, and though the British empire in the East enjoys undisturbed repose, there are serious disquietudes somewhat beyond the limits of its border, and we have at present ships of war on hostile missions, both in the Red Sea and Persian Gulf.

SANTAL IN-REBELLION.—Although the Santal disturbances no longer wear the character of an insurrection, the country continues far from quiet. No cases of violence have occurred, but the people in the disturbed districts seem alarmed and dissatisfied, and are moving with their goods and chattels in little bands to the southward—it seems not well to be known where or for what end.

THE NEW GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—Our prospective Governor-General, Lord Canning, is at present sojourning amongst us, having arrived from Suez by the *Feroze* on the 28th ult. He was received in great state at a landing place prepared on purpose in the dockyard, but too late in the evening too see about him. The arrangements were altogether new, all previous governors having disembarked at the Apollo Pier, one of the finest landing-places in India. A grand levee occurred on the 30th, followed by a native Durbar.

#### AUSTRALIA.

THE *James Baines*, Royal Mail Packet, reached Liverpool on Sunday last, after a protracted passage from Melbourne, from which place she sailed on November 28th. The despatches conveyed by her, state that the new constitution for Victoria was proclaimed on the 23d of November. On the same day the Legislative Council met for its last session, prior to its dissolution.

His Excellency Sir Charles Hotham, in his speech on the occasion, announced his intention of transmitting two bills—one to regulate the elections, the other to prevent bribery. He expressed his satisfaction at the state of the gold fields; good order and quiet prevailed generally. After alluding to the best mode for defending Hobson's-bay, approving the plan adopted, his Excellency expressed the hope that a measure would shortly be brought forward for the construction of railways in the colony.

Alluding to the financial condition of the colony, his Excellency said that he trusted he was justified in assuming that, with a few exceptions, the colony would be at the end of the year nearly, if not quite, free from debt.

TRADING IN SLAVES.—From time immemorial a flourishing trade in slaves has prevailed betwixt the chief places on the Arabian and African shores. Mas-sowah, a town of between 3,000 and 4,000 population, is the chief point of export. Sometimes as many as a thousand slaves are to be found here together, ready for shipment in vessels of some twenty-five tons for Jeddah, on the opposite coast; about a fourth part of them are believed to die of sickness or perish by their own hands on the way. Some months since the Sultan, formerly the great protector of the slave trade, issued orders to the Turkish authorities at Jeddah and Mecca for its suppression; the order was sent by the Pacha of Jeddah to the Kahmukun of Mecca, who having referred the matter to the Cadi, it was proclaimed as imperial and to be implicitly obeyed. The Ulemahs and inhabitants on this proceeded to the Court of Justice to demand on what authority the abolition of slavery had been ordered. On the firm of the Sultan being quoted, it was denounced by them as opposed to the Koran, and the Cadi being attacked, escaped with his life, and with difficulty found refuge in the sanctuary. Serious disturbances followed. A similar amount of excitement, and from the same cause, had arisen at Jeddah, and both places are now in a state of siege.

COTTON SPINNING IN INDIA.—We intimated four months since the commencement of spinning operations at Mr. Landon's cotton factory at Broach. The yarns have now come to the market, and are spoken of in terms of the highest commendation. Though made, we believe, exclusively of short staple Broach cotton, they fetch in the market nearly 10 per cent. more than Manchester yarns of the same designation, and orders have in consequence already been received sufficient to keep the factory in constant work for the next four months. Mr. Landon prepared his estimates on the assumption of Broach yarn fetching English prices, and on this point his expectations have been realised.

AN EXCHANGE OF COMPLIMENTS.—One of the trifling stories of the hour in the Parisian salons, is, that during the late visit of a party of ladies to the room in which the Conferences are held, the wife of a representative of one of the secondary states of Germany wrote beneath the names of Baron Brunow and Count Orloff, "Russians! take care!" while a Belgian lady, wife of a Secretary to the Legation, approached the place occupied by Lord Clarendon, and wrote under his Lordship's name, "Monster—make peace!"

#### SPEECH OF THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON.

THE following speech was on Monday addressed to the Legislature of France, on the occasion of opening the Session of the Senate and the Legislative Body:—

MM. LES PAIRS. MM. LES SENATEURS.—

The last time that I summoned you to meet, grave anxieties weighed upon us. The Allied armies were exhausting themselves in a siege, in which the obstinacy of the defenders made success doubtful. Europe, uncertain, seemed to await the issue of the struggle before declaring herself.

To sustain the war, I asked a loan, which, although it might appear excessive, you voted unanimously. The high price of provisions menaced the labouring classes with general discomfort, and a disturbance in the monetary system gave ground to fear the slackening of business, and the diminution of employment. Well, thanks to your aid, and to the energy displayed in France and in England—thanks, above all, to the support of Providence—these dangers, if they had not entirely disappeared, are for the most part dissipated.

A great deed of arms has since decided a desperate struggle, unparalleled in history, in favour of the Allies. The opinion of Europe from that moment has been more openly shown. In every direction our alliances have extended, or have become more firm. The third loan has been supplied without difficulty. The country has again proved to me its confidence by subscribing a sum ten times larger than I required from it. It has undergone, with admirable resignation, the sufferings inseparable from dearth of provisions—sufferings which, nevertheless, have been mitigated by private charity, by the zeal of the corporations, and by the millions of francs distributed in the departments. An arrival of foreign corn has now produced a considerable fall in the price of food, the fears arising from the disappearance of gold have faded; and never has labour been more active, never have the revenues been so large. The chances of war have re-awakened the military spirit of the nation. Never were there so many voluntary enlistments, nor so great an ardour among the conscripts.

To this short statement of our situation I may add a fact, of a high political significance. The Queen of Great Britain, wishing to give a proof of her confidence in, and esteem for, our country, and to render our relations still more intimate, came to France. The enthusiastic reception which her Majesty received must have proved to her how deep were the sentiments inspired by her presence, and how much of a character tending to strengthen the alliance of the two peoples.

The King of Piedmont, who had unhesitatingly embraced our cause with that courageous ardour of which he had previously afforded proof on the field of battle, also came to France to consecrate a union already cemented by the valor of his soldiers. These sovereigns beheld a country, some time so disturbed and fallen from her rank in the councils of Europe, now prosperous, peaceable and respected, making war, not with the hurried delirium of passion, but with that calm which belongs to justice and all the energy of duty. They have seen France, which had sent 200,000 men across the sea, at the same time convalesce at Paris all the Arts of Peace, as if she meant to say to Europe—"The present war is but an episode for me, and my strength is always in great measure directed towards peaceful occupations. Let us neglect no opportunity of coming to an understanding, and do not force me to throw into the battle-field the whole resources and power of a great nation."

This appeal seems to have been heard, and winter, by suspending hostilities, favoured the intervention of diplomacy. Austria resolved upon a decisive step, which brought into the deliberations all the influence of the Sovereign of a vast Empire. Sweden bound herself more closely to England and to France by a treaty, which guaranteed the integrity of her territory. Finally, from all the Cabinets, advice, or petitions, were sent to St. Petersburg. The Emperor of Russia, inheritor of a situation which he had not brought about, seemed animated by a sincere desire to put an end to the causes which had brought about this sanguinary conflict. He accepted determinedly (and we determine) the propositions transmitted by Austria. The honour of arms once satisfied, to defer to the distinctly expressed wish of Europe, was to do himself honour.

At this moment the Plenipotentiaries of the belligerent and Allied Powers are met at Paris to decide on the conditions of peace. The spirit of moderation and equity, which animates them all, must make us hope for a favourable result. Nevertheless, let us, with dignity, wait for the end of the Conference; and let us be equally ready, if it prove necessary, to unsheath the sword again, or to offer the hand of friendship to those with whom we have honourably fought.

Whatever happen, let us busy ourselves with all matters which tend to augment the power and the wealth of France. Let us draw still closer, if that be possible, the alliance which has been formed by a common participation in glory and in sacrifices, and of which peace will make the mutual advantages appear even more conspicuous. Let us, lastly, at this moment, so solemn for the destinies of the world, put our trust in God, so that He may guide our efforts in a way the most advantageous to the interests of humanity and of civilisation.

### The War.

#### OPERATIONS IN THE CRIMEA.

##### POST OFFICE ORDERS EXHAUSTED.

SEBASTOPOL, February 15th.—The demand for orders has been so great that the Post-offices at Balaklava and Head-quarters will probably be compelled to suspend their issue for want of the necessary printed forms. Only 1,000 of these were sent out to each Post-office, and in the first two weeks, ending Saturday, February 9, 1,030 orders were given, the total amount of these being within a trifle of £3,000, showing an average of not quite £3 per order. This result has exceeded the provisions of the Post-office, and has fully realised the most sanguine expectations of the advocates of an extension of the money-order system to the army in the East. Some soldiers have sent home as much as £15, and even £20, showing how long and steadily they had been saving up their pay; and also, it may fairly be inferred, the practical inutility of paymasters as channels of remittance. The Army Works Corps, whose wages are very high, make great use of the Post-office to send money home.

##### BOOKS AND "READING-HUTS."

All the books received (and they include a large number of excellent works, new or as good as new) have been distributed equally among the different divisions and corps of the army in the Crimea, which now possesses a library and reading-hut in every division. The diagrams are used for lectures, now quite in vogue and well attended; the music is found useful for choirs and concerts; the games are distributed in the hospitals and general huts. It is proposed to call in all the books, games, &c., at the termination of the war, and with them to establish a library in some large dépôt, or barracks, or permanent camp—at Aldershot, for instance. There is an immense demand for school material, elementary books on grammar and arithmetic; but it is now too late to get these from England, since before they could be received the army would be preparing, either for another campaign, or for a return home.

##### THEATRICAL MANIA.

A professional dramatic critic would just now find abundant occupation in this camp. The army seems possessed by a theatrical mania, and the number of theatres grows so large that, allowing for distances, dark nights, heavy roads, and the absence of cabs, no one man could possibly take cognizance of all the "first representations of screaming farces" and lively interludes which nightly provoke roars of laughter from well-pleased audiences. It is one thing to witness a comedy at the Haymarket and then hurry off to see a burlesque at the Lyceum, and another altogether to attend the 1st Royals' playhouse at Kamara, and be back in time to see the closing piece performed in the theatre hard by Cathcart's Hill. However, there is a talk of a projected paper to be published in camp, devoted to the drama, and entitled "The Theatrical and Military Gazette; or, the Crimean Players' Chronicle," the first number of which will shortly appear, should no interdict be laid upon it by those higher powers who profess a particular horror of the press.

##### NEW THEATRE-ROYAL.

There now have been three performances at the New Theatre-Royal of the Fourth Division; the first two were for the soldiers, that of last night was for officers. The theatre is a spacious and well-constructed hut, sloping from the entrance towards the stage, and down it is drawn up a column of benches, the centre bit of each of which opens with a hinge, to permit passage without sacrifice of space. Upwards of 300 persons find convenient sitting room. The two front benches are cushioned, and are allotted generally to the officers of highest rank, and to the foreign visitors. Last night, six generals were there seated, two of them Frenchmen—Generals de la Motterouge and Baron de Malet, the latter of whom speaks English like an Englishman, and seemed heartily to enjoy the performance. On the right of the orchestra is a door, above which a transparency, with an indicative hand and the word "saloon," tells the way to the refreshment room. The orchestra, which, in the old theatre, was in a corner, is now in its regular trough, between audience and footlamps. The proscenium is not yet completely painted, but promises well. In the centre, above the curtain, is a capital transparency, executed by Captain Dallas, General Garrett's aide-de-camp, who is not an A.R.A. merely because he



has had the misfortune to prefer the sword to the brush. The British arms are there displayed; a splendid red lion, with a sardonic countenance, is prevented only by the shield between them, from making a savage onslaught on a beautiful white unicorn, with a very exalted horn and hoofs delicately carved. Above are the numbers and initials of the various corps composing the division. The curtain is no longer of canvas and drawn loosely, but a most correct green, which lifts and lowers. The scenery, especially some sporting pictures which adorn the parour of Squire Falgout, is of a very high style of art, but the modesty of the artists, who have done it by stealth, and blush to find it fame, forbids mention of their names.

#### RELIGIOUS SECTS IN THE CRIMEA.

The Methodist preacher sent to the Crimea by the Wesleyan Missionary Society, and whose presence here has been sanctioned by Lord Panmure, has arrived. It would, perhaps, be incorrect to say that he has commenced his spiritual labours, for he finds himself much in the position of a shepherd without a flock, the formation of which, it is pre-eminently, the real object of his coming. Judging from the result of inquiries I have made, there is no pretext for the introduction of a Methodist minister into the British camp. The men are all well content to class themselves under the three denominations—Church of England, Presbyterian, and Roman Catholic, which have their priests and ministers already here. It is difficult to recognise the wisdom of sending out a representative of a sect that here lacks professors who are not satisfied with the means of divine worship already afforded them, to be, as it were, a symbol of the sectarianism and dissimilarity which are the greatest misfortunes of the reformed church.—*Letter from the Camp.*

#### MILITARY NEWS—SIR COLIN CAMPBELL.

The right siege train has begun to embark for England. Three companies marched down to Balaclava this afternoon, preceded by several of the Light Division bands, which played them some way on their road, and cheered by the men in the camps they passed through. The whole of the right train is to be at once shipped. Several infantry regiments have lately marched down to the Balaclava stores, into which they gave their old rifles, and received in exchange new ones on the Enfield plan. The Russians have been firing pretty heavily to-day on the French to the right of the Karabelnaia. Our fatigue parties continue to bring up Russian cannons from Sebastopol. The enemy occasionally shells them, but with little effect, and they mind that much less than the badness of the tracks they have to pass over, which greatly impedes the transport of the heavy artillery. Yesterday morning a strong party of roadmakers commenced cutting a road, to extend from that of Woronzow to the Redan. Sir Colin Campbell rejoined the army yesterday. He is to have command of a corps d'armée. To conduct it to Mediterranean garrisons, or to lead it to victory in Asia?—this is the question every one now asks himself. The General is staying, for the present, with the Commander-in-Chief, at Headquarters.

#### THE WAR OFFICE AND THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

The present system of home government of the army inspires its generals with a timid dread of acting "on their own hook." For the slightest motive the wires quiver, and advice or licence is asked. The spectre "Responsibility" stalks about Headquarters, a fearful phantom and terrifying presence, and stunts our Commanders-in-Chief into mere telegraph directors.

#### DESTRUCTION IN PROGRESS.

Feb. 16.—The work of demolition has been making progress, both in Sebastopol and the Karabelnaia suburb. The explosions of small mines are now frequent sounds, and it is difficult to distinguish them from the reports of the guns fired on the north side, or the shells bursting among the ruined buildings in the town. Now and then, under peculiar conditions of the atmosphere, the reports of the guns in the Russian batteries sound wonderfully near to the camps, towards which their muzzles, though a long distance off, are directed, while at other times their discharge is not even audible. Several of the underground bunkers and bomb-proof barracks in the Redan were blown up yesterday.

#### A RUSSIAN RECONNAISSANCE AT KARDOUBEL.

General Sir W. Codrington, in a despatch to Lord Panmure, dated Feb. 16, states that a "Russian force, estimated at about 3,000 infantry and Cossacks, appeared, on the morning of the 12th inst., on the ridge of Kardoubel, above the valley of Baidar, but retired after a short reconnaissance."

#### BLOWING UP THE AQUEDUCT—MINING IN PROGRESS.

In the same despatch from which the above extract is taken, General Codrington says:—"The French engineers blew up, on the 12th inst., two portions of the aqueduct which formerly supplied the docks of Sebastopol. Some blasting experiments have been made on the walls of the large barracks, near the dockyard, and the mining is in progress."

#### APPROACH OF SPRING, AND THE HEALTH OF THE ARMY.

The weather, for some days past, has been showing the gradual approach of spring, and the health of the army continues excellent. "Indeed, it could scarcely be excelled," says Dr. Hall, in his weekly report, dated Feb. 18, "and the mortality as present is under that of the household cavalry in England, which is a body of men as well taken care of as any troops in the world."

#### DESTRUCTION OF FORT ST. PAUL.

According to a despatch received at Marseilles on the 3d instant, the cold in the Crimea was excessive. Fort St. Paul had been destroyed, and the Quarantine Fort was mined and shortly to be blown up.

#### STATISTICS AND POSITION OF THE RUSSIAN ARMY.

A correspondent at the camp gives some statistics, tending to show that the Russians have now in the Crimea 67,000 infantry, 19,000 cavalry and artillery, and 300 guns:—

Two divisions of Grenadiers are supposed to be near Eupatoria. Also Black Sea Cossacks (infantry) and militia at Arabat, Kaffa, &c. The distribution of the whole Russian army out of the Crimea has also been stated to me. 1st Corps d'Armée, 15,000; 2nd ditto, Nicolai; 5th ditto, Ukraine; 6th ditto, Nicolai; Grenadiers and Grenadiers, less the two divisions of the latter supposed to be at Eupatoria (if they are there), Poland and Army of the North. At Stavropol, there are believed to be 22,000 men; at Kutais, 24,000, under Behoutoff; Nicolai's army is estimated at 100,000 men. The sources from which these statistics are derived being within the Crimea, I am disposed to rely more upon that part of them which relates to the Crimean army than to the Russian army in general, and I doubt Nicolai's having 100,000 men, although in that number are included all the Transcaucasian garrisons and troops, regular and irregular. This, however, does not pretend to be more than an approximate estimate. Some of the troops stated to be at Nicolai are probably at Odessa."

#### THE WAR IN ASIA.

It appears from accounts brought to Marseilles on the 3d instant, by the *Borghese* that Omar Pacha was still at Redout-Kaleh. The English were pushing forward their preparations for an eventual expedition into Asia, and they were enlisting labourers to be despatched to Trebizond.

The Ottoman Cossacks, still inclined to subordination, were at Selimla

The "INVALIDE RUSSE" announces that it will no longer be an exclusive military journal; but will contain theatrical articles, military news not being likely to be of sufficient interest to its readers.

FASHIONS IN RUSSIA.—A letter from St. Petersburg, of the 21st ult., says:—"While our plenipotentiaries are deliberating on peace at Paris, a new war is being preached here—a war against foreign manufactures and fashions. The ladies of Fashion have originated this revolution. They have exchanged their foreign dresses for Russian dresses, and have declared their resolutions to wear nothing but Russian-made fabrics. The 'Court Gazette' praises this patriotic resolution to the skies, and strongly recommends the ladies of Russia to follow the example of their sisters of Tambov."

FRENCH REINFORCEMENTS ON A LARGE SCALE.—According to a despatch, dated Marseilles, March 4, the preparations for the embarkation of troops destined for the East are on a larger scale than has been stated. They contemplate the despatch of 20,000 men.

GENERAL WILLIAMS.—Last week, intelligence reached this country of the alarming illness of this gallant officer at Tiflis. The moment Government received information of the fact, telegraphic instructions were forwarded to Constantinople, desiring that the best medical aid should be immediately despatched to Tiflis. We are glad to find by the accounts more recently received, that General Williams was gradually recovering, and that he is to be exchanged for General Kokonowitch.

#### THE EXHAUSTION OF RUSSIA.

In a daily contemporary appeared the other day a long account by an American, giving "an interior view of Russia." A residence of two years in Russia, extending over a period including the demise of the late Czar, and introductions to all circles, afforded him an opportunity of watching narrowly her resources. As the result of his observations, he gives the following respecting the present exhaustion of Russia, and the importance of striking another blow before she has time to recruit her energies:—"Russia is dead. He was the soul of the empire. When his great soul left Russia, the big bell cracked."

Russia is exhausted. The flower of her heroism and the flower of her chivalry at Sebastopol. She cannot, during a lifetime, reconstruct the fallen defences of her skill, and she has ceased to be formidable to the enlightened Governments of Europe for the next generation. She has achieved more within the last year or two than she can achieve again for twenty years. Now is the time for the Western Powers to assert their authority. Russian diplomacy may overreach you in this coming Peace Conference, and while you go to sleep the savage may stand by his guns. As time goes on, civilisation may enervate your powers; vitality will flow into the heart of Russia, and your children may wake up the slaves of the Cossacks.

"On the whole, Russia must halt. She has gone on so long in an undisputed career of conquest that the Western nations had good grounds for jealousy, and perhaps alarm. She felt her strength—she did not know her weakness. Her people are suffering, and suffering deeply. All classes of her subjects are discontented. She cannot continue the war, for her foes will become those of her own household. She is driven to make peace. Her solid walls of untrained serfs can offer no effectual barriers to the enlightened men who go from the civilised homes of Western Europe."

THE QUEEN AND THE INVALIDED GUARDS.—On the afternoon of Saturday last, the Queen inspected 43 of her Guards, invalided from the Crimea, at Buckingham Palace. The whole of the men, with three exceptions, had been wounded during the war. Her Majesty, Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales, &c., attended by the Ladies and Gentlemen in Waiting, entered the Grand Hall, where the soldiers were assembled, at three o'clock. The Queen questioned the whole of the Guards about their wounds, the actions where received, and the present state of their health. At the close of the inspection, the soldiers were conducted to the lower dining hall, where dinner was served to them.

REPORTS OF THE FACTORY INSPECTORS.—The reports of the factory inspector for the year 1855 have just been published. The "joint report," dated the 1st ult., states that much progress had been made (with the exception of Lancashire and the adjoining districts) towards giving effect to those provisions of the statute enacted for preventing bodily injury to the workpeople from mill-gearing in factories. In many parts of the kingdom safeguards of various kinds have been provided to prevent accidents from contact with a revolving horizontal shaft, so that it is difficult to point out any neighbourhood in which, in some or other local factory, very good precautions are not now to be discovered, absolutely depriving of any reasonable excuse for their neglect all those who refuse to satisfy the requirements of the Act in this respect. The total number of accidents reported to the four inspectors during the six months ended the 31st of October, 1855, amounted to 1,801—viz., 230 to adults, 912 to young persons, and 169 to children. Twenty-one of these accidents were fatal, and all arose from machinery. There were seventy-two accidents arising from other causes. Ninety-eight informations laid for offences against the Factories Act resulted in sixty-one convictions. Twenty-two accidents arose from the non-fencing of horizontal shafts; some of them were very frightful, involving the knocking off of brains, the tearing off of heads, legs, and arms, and severe fractures of limbs.

REMOVED OFFICIAL CHANGES.—It is said that Lord Panmure will shortly retire from the War Department, and that the laborious duties of that office will be undertaken by the Duke of Somerset. It is also rumoured that Mr. Moncell and Mr. Frederick Peel, neither of whom have shone with great brilliancy in Parliament this session, will also be moved to other offices.

HUNDREDS OF PERSONS were on Blackfriars Bridge on Tuesday watching the movements of a large porpoise as it was frightened from one part of the river to another by the commotion of the passing steamers. An attempt to catch it was unsuccessful.

THE HON. G. H. HEATHCOTE, late M.P. for Boston, was on Tuesday, without opposition, elected for the county of Rutland, in the room of his father, recently ennobled.

#### WEEKLY OBITUARY.

GODFREY, ADMIRAL.—On Feb. 25, died at Kingston, Surrey, Rear-Admiral John Hardy Godfrey. He had seen a great amount of active service in the Mediterranean, and the East and West Indies. He attained his seniority in June, 1814, and flag rank in 1854.

CLIFFORD, H. M. S., Esq.—On Feb. 26, died at Merton College, Oxford, in his 20th year, Henry Somers Morgan Clifford, Esq. He was the eldest son of Colonel Henry Morgan Clifford, M.P. for Herefordshire, by Catherine, daughter of the late J. Yorke, Esq. He was a young man of high promise, and had only recently gone into residence at the University from Eton, where he was educated.

ANSTRUTHER, LIEUT.-COL.—On Feb. 26, died at Chestow Villas, Bayswater, Lieut.-Col. Robert Anstruther, of Thirdford, N.B. The deceased officer had served in India, and was married in 1832, to Louisa, sister of the present Sir Howard Elphinstone, Bart. He had retired for some years from the army, and latterly had been most successful as a military tutor. His death was very sudden, and his loss will be extensively felt.

FRITELLY, MARCHIONESS DE.—On Feb. 19, died in Paris, aged 91, Sarah, la Marquise de Fritelly. She was the eldest daughter of the late Captain Dorrall, R.N., of Pownall Hill, Cheshire, and married her late husband towards the close of the last century.

THORNTON, COLONEL.—On the 26th of Feb., died at Camberwell, Surrey, Colonel Henry Thornton, C.B., late of the 2nd, and formerly of the 40th regiment. The deceased entered the army in 1794, and served in the Peninsular war. He commanded the 40th Regiment at the battle of Talavera, and at Nivelle, where he was severely wounded, and also at Orthes and Toulouse, for which he received the Gold Cross. He was also present at the battles of Roda, Vimiera, Busaco, and the Pyrenees, for which he received the Silver War Medal with four clasps. He was made a Companion of the Bath at the close of the late war. He became full Colonel in 1825, and for some years before his death had retired from all active service.

GORE, MRS. G.—On Feb. 23rd, at Tivoli Terrace, Kingstown, near Dublin, at an advanced age, died the Hon. Mrs. George Gore, widow of the late Very Rev. Dr. George Gore, Dean of Killala, son of the second Earl of Arran. She became the Dean's third wife in 1823, having previously been the widow of Thomas Bunbury Isaac, Esq., of Hollywood House, county of Devon. She had no issue, we believe, by either husband.

WILBERFORCE, LIEUT. H. W.—On Feb. 28th, at Torquay, aged 22, died Herbert William Wilberforce, Lieutenant R.N., eldest son of the Bishop of Oxford. His death was occasioned by over-exertion with the Baltic Fleet.

STODDART, SIR J.—In Brompton Square, very recently, in his 82nd year, died Sir John Stoddart, LL.D., formerly distinguished as an advocate in Doctor's Commons. He was educated at Christ Church, Oxford, where he graduated B.A. in 1794 and LL.D. in 1801. In 1803, he was appointed King's Advocate and Admiralty Advocate at Malta; and in 1826 became Chief Justice of that island and Judge of the Vice-Admiralty Court, on which occasion he received the honour of knighthood, having previously retired from his practice in Doctor's Commons. He had formerly been connected with the press and the literary world, having for some years been the editor and proprietor of the "New Times"—a Tory journal of unfortunate celebrity, according to the "Leader." Since retiring from the more active business of his profession, Sir John Stoddart employed himself upon "A New Universal Grammar," the first volume of which he recently published, but the second volume is still incomplete in manuscript. It should be added, that at a meeting of the Law Amendment Society, held shortly after his death, Lord Brougham, speaking from the experience of half a century of personal acquaintance, bore testimony to Sir John Stoddart's extraordinary learning and varied talents. He was the eldest son of the late Lieutenant J. Stoddart, R.N. In 1803, he married the eldest daughter of the late Rev. Sir Henry Wellwood-Moncreiff, Bart., an eminent divine of the Church of Scotland, by whom he has left one daughter and three sons. One of his sons was a fellow of St. John's College, Oxford, and another, we believe, still holds the post of a Judge in the Supreme Court of Ceylon.

ANDERSON, SIR J. E.—On February 29, in Harley Street, after a long and severe illness, died Sir James Eglington Anderson, M.D., aged 67. He was the eldest son of the late William Anderson, Esq., an eminent merchant of Glasgow, by the daughter of James Eglington, Esq. He entered the medical service of the navy in 1808, attained his seniority in 1811, and retired from the service in 1833. He took the degree of M.D., we believe, at Edinburgh. In 1819, he married the third daughter of the Rev. William Learmont, of Luce Abbey. The deceased was for some years a director of the Norfolk Railway; and it is not a little singular that, on the very day of his death, he was re-elected a member of the board of that company.

CAMPBELL-RENTON, J. ESQ.—On the 25th ult., at Malta, died, from the effects of the rupture of a blood-vessel, John Campbell Renton, of Lamberton, in the county of Berwick. The deceased represented the borough of Berwick in the last Parliament upon Conservative principles. His landed estates in that county revert to his next brother, Archibald Colin Campbell, late a major in the 42nd Highlanders, who now takes the additional name of Renton. The Major has lately returned home from the Crimea in ill health, after being present at Alma, Balaclava, and Sebastopol, where he greatly distinguished himself for his bravery and unceasing kindness and attention to the men under his command.

#### DESTRUCTION OF COVENT GARDEN THEATRE BY FIPE.

On Wednesday morning, one of the most terrible conflagrations that has occurred in the metropolis for a long period, broke out at the Theatre Royal, Covent Garden, during the progress of Professor Anderson's bal masque.

At twenty minutes to five o'clock the company had dwindled to about 200 persons on the stage or hall room, and the orchestra were in the act of playing the concluding bars of the National Anthem when a large portion of one of the fly scenes fell suddenly on the stage, a few paces in front of the ordinary position of the stage lights. Several persons narrowly escaped injury from the falling mass; but the alarm created by this circumstance had not subsided when sparks descending from the roof above the stage spread terror throughout the assembly. Those who only an instant before had been indulging in the giddy dance, were now shrieking for help, and flying to the several exit doors in the hope of saving their lives.

There was no time for thought or consideration. In a few seconds the interior of the building was full of dense black smoke, and the greatest possible alarm for individual safety was felt on every side. The utmost confusion and consternation prevailed. The masquers left the theatre in a state of the most perfect terror, while the flames were ascending high above them into the air.

Superintendent Durkin, of the F Division, had been in attendance during the evening, with Inspectors Tiddy and Searle, of the A Division, to preserve order, and they had not left the theatre when the fire broke out. With admirable presence of mind they took possession of the various entrances, and, aided by a body of constables, kept them clear for the exit of the wretched masquers, some of whom were actually carried out in a fainting state.

A vain attempt was made to rescue some of the properties of the theatre, and, among the rest, the machinery appertaining to Mr. Anderson's tricks; but this, of course, was perfectly fruitless. The cash-box, however, was among the first of the articles carried out of the theatre.

Mr. Braidwood, with his fire-brigade, were early in attendance; but from the first he saw that all hope of saving any part of the theatre was futile, and the exertions of twenty engines were exclusively devoted to throwing water on the surrounding property, and preventing the fire from extending to Covent-garden Market on the west, and Bow Street on the east. This was done, but nothing beyond. On the theatre not a vestige is saved—nothing but the bare walls are left of that superb temple, which, under the management of Mr. Gye, had become world-famous as the seat of music and of song. Several of the houses adjacent to the theatre are partially destroyed.

It is hoped and believed that no lives were lost. If this be so, it is entirely owing to the admirable management of the police in keeping back the curious crowd, who, after the alarm had been given, would have rushed into the theatre to the imminent risk of their own destruction. At seven o'clock in the morning a broad red flame was rising like a volcano from the site of the theatre.

It is a remarkable fact that Mr. Anderson has once before closed his theatrical season with the total destruction of a theatre—that of the City of Glasgow, in 1845.

THE REV. REGINALD COURTENAY, who, from 1842 to 1852, was rector of Thornton-Watlass, near Bedale, Yorkshire, has been appointed Bishop of Kingston, Jamaica.

MR. W. S. BENNETT was on Tuesday elected Professor of Music in Cambridge University, in the room of the late Professor Walmesley.

MR. RHODES, the extensive brickmaker, well known for upwards of half-a-century in the counties of Middlesex and Essex, has committed suicide at his residence, in Assembly Row, on the borders of Winstead Forest.

COUNT MANIANT has been elected, at Genoa, a Member of the Piedmontese Chamber of Deputies, in opposition to the clerical candidate, the advocate Bizio.

#### GENERAL BEATSON.

THE cause of General Beatson's recent removal from the command of the Bashi-Bazouks, appears to be a matter of considerable mystery; but there is a very general impression that those who first formed this body, likely hereafter to be formidable enough, who, above all, were the first to reconcile the Turks to direct European command, to which they had never hitherto submitted, have been indifferently rewarded, and, what is more, somewhat unjustly treated. Of these, General Beatson, the subject of the accompanying portrait, is decidedly the most conspicuous and interesting.

General W. F. Beatson was, before coming under public notice as organiser of the Bashi-Bazouks, an officer of no inconsiderable distinction. Besides having signalled his personal decision, and served with honour and reputation as lieutenant-colonel in command of a regiment in the British Legion in Spain, he was well known in India as an officer who had been in command of a brigade for eleven years; who, for nearly half of that period, held the specific rank of brigadier; and who was mentioned six times in orders and despatches for successful actions in which he commanded. He volunteered, in the beginning of 1853, for service at the seat of war upon the Danube. There he commanded the Bashi-Bazouks of Omar Pacha's army, and, in spite of their delinquencies and shortcomings, unfortunate antecedents, and worse name, he conceived the happy idea that English energy and justice could draw out all the really valuable qualities of these wild troops, and render them serviceable in the grand struggle upon which the Allies were entering.

At first, the attempt was rather up-hill work. It is even said, with what truth we care not to inquire, that Lord Raglan—worthy man as he was—could not endure the idea of commanding men who kidnapped Bulgarians and roasted Russians. General Yusuf's failure had impressed the English Government with the impossibility of success. Monetary arrangements were made with what has been termed "unusual dilatoriness," officers were sent out by the slowest degrees, and the incapables were selected, not by the General, but by the War Office. Arms that were promised were not issued, pay was irregular, and the original officers were not placed in the positions to which they were entitled. Fully nine months elapsed before the future Commander could repair to the town of Dardanelles, his headquarters, and begin the work of organisation; and the first detachment was marched into camp as late as the 9th of June, 1855, one-third of the campaigning season having been wasted in the merest preliminaries.

Nevertheless, the work, at least so say those who write in defence of the Bashi-Bazouks, was begun with earnestness, and for a while all went smoothly. General Beatson formed his staff, consisting of Colonel Walpole, well known as a traveller in Turkey, Captain Green, of the Bombay army, who had served with credit in the Scinde Irregular Horse, and Captain Rhodes of the 94th, who had been aide-de-camp to General Prim when he drew up his report on the military capabilities of Turkey for the Spanish Government. With this staff Beatson went vigorously to work, and, amidst great hardships and difficulties, the widest parts of the empire were scoured for volunteers—Albania, Salonica, Monastir, Syria, sent forth their wild men, and the force speedily began, heterogeneous as its elements were, to assume some degree of form and shape. Others now arrived at the scene of General Beatson's labours—Colonel Brett, Majors O'Reilly and Shelley, and Captains Ford and Wemyss. Above three thousand men were collected on the shores of the Dardanelles, fifteen hundred of whom—a number of horse which, in any other service than ours, would have been considered the command of a general officer—had been recruited by Major Rhodes alone, after incredible exertions and hardships, which ultimately shattered his health, and he, with all the other officers, did their work nobly. But, ere long, affairs presented a different aspect. Animosity, not quite unnatural, under the peculiar circumstances, grew strong by degrees and finally burst into a flame.

The French supplied the press with tales of horror. The Turkish authorities, civil and military, joyfully pitted Christian against Christian in their fanatic resolve that Moslems should not be commanded by Infidels. The wily Greeks, the Jews, and the other sects, followed the example of their rulers. Had the English held together, all might have been well; but it happened that the English Ambassador, whose powerful arm had upheld the



establishment, was induced to assemble at the Dardanelles a court of inquiry, consisting of a Brigadier-General from the Turkish Contingent, two Consuls and three Turkish officials. This "mixed commission," by a series of measures, described as "most injudicious and uncalled for," succeeded in strengthening the party opposed to General Beatson, introduced divisions among his officers, kept his men in a state of perpetual excitement, embroiled him with the Porte, and finally carried away his best and strongest support—the Ambassador. An angry correspondence ensued; no allowance was made for the plain speaking and the warm words of a man beset by petty annoyances and irritated by groundless calumnies. From that point it became clear that General Beatson would be under the necessity of tendering his resignation.

The sayings, the insinuations, the reports of a clique and the clamours of the local press, prevailed against truth and justice. Doubtless every stranger who visited the Dardanelles, departed, wondering at the difference between what he saw and what he had heard. Yet the worst view was taken by the authorities.

At length, in September, 1855, the Minister-at-War attached Beatson's Horse to the Turkish Contingent, thus, as it were, degrading it from an independent to a secondary command. General Beatson resigned, professing, however, his willingness to conduct the men to headquarters. A rumour arose that the force was to be ordered on service, and the schemers saw that "now or never" was the time. Seizing the first opportunity of a quarrel between an Albanian and the police, they persuaded the Military Pacha of the Dardanelles to draw out all his forces, and, under pretence of defending a town which was not attacked, to offer battle. Without delay they despatched the steamer *Redpole* to Constantinople, reported the frightful state of affairs, begged for a strong reinforcement, and urged the necessity of instantly removing the cause and front of these disorders. The result was the triumph of diplomacy. With all speed a strong body of Turkish regulars was sent down to the Dardanelles, three war steamers were placed to command the road from camp to town, 300 French soldiers were landed at the Nagara Hospital, to take the Bashi-Bazouks in rear, and General Smith appeared to assume the command.

Meanwhile the Bashi-Bazouks had, by the personal exertions of their General and officers, been kept quietly in their camp. On the afternoon of the day of the demonstration, the Military Pacha, ashamed of the farce, marched back his men to barracks, and the Civil Governor sent a conciliatory message, stating that he had been urged on by others to the absurd and insulting measure. But the *coup* had succeeded. General Beatson was ordered by General Vivian to make over his command, and to repair to Buyukdere without delay. Though suffering from a severe accident, he at once obeyed the latter part of the order. Fearing, however, that the men might resent his too sudden removal, and compromise themselves by some act of violence, he placed one of his own officers as temporary second in command, and on the 1st of October proceeded to headquarters.

"In July, 1855," writes the late Chief of the Staff of the Bashi-Bazouks,



GENERAL BEATSON, LATE IN COMMAND OF THE TURKISH IRREGULAR CAVALRY ON THE DARDANELLES.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY MAYALL.)

"I first joined General Beatson's force, and can speak of these events with authority. After considerable experience of Bashi-Bazouks in Egypt and Arabia, my wonder was excited by the orderly conduct of our men. I attribute it to their affection for their General, and still believe that the hope of his return even now holds them together. I saw none of the scenes which struck the spectator with horror at Varna and Gallipoli in 1853. No such *émeute* ever occurred as that between the French occupants of Constantinople and the hapless Tunisians. On no occasion did the Bashi-Bazouks disgrace themselves as has the Turkish Contingent—men trained to military discipline, amply officered, and in presence of the enemy—by their late plundering, grave snatching, and mutiny at Kertch.

This body, but 8,000 strong, had, when I left Turkey, lost 1,000 by desertion; of our 3,000 at most 300 left us. Not a citizen of the Dardanelles was ever murdered by the Bashi-Bazouks. Not an English officer was ever struck or insulted by them. So small was the amount of crime, that only one rape was ever alleged against them.

"With General Beatson's departure, all, I have said, changed. He had established a riding-school, a school of arms, and a guard of the gallant and docile Arabian negroes, to act as reserve in time of urgent danger. These, I hear, have been done away with. The English Horse Artillery, without whose support Bashi-Bazouks could not be depended upon in severe actions, lies prostrated by cholera at Scutari; and nearly 4,000 men, many of them mounted upon the valuable blood of Arabia and Syria, are being marched, in the midst of winter, up and down the inclement Balkan Hills!

"The old and tried General who would see service, who was resolved at all hazards not to be shelved at Shumla or Magnesia, has lost his command. After the deadly campaigns on the Danube; after the bloody fields of Inkermann and Balaclava; after the weary labour of organising and disciplining a force which Ibrahim Pacha, Omar Pacha, and General Yusuf found intractable, General Beatson has returned home unnoticed and unknown."

#### ROAD TO BUYUKDERE, CONSTANTINOPLE.

BUYUKDERE—the road from which to Constantinople is represented in our engraving—is described as looking, especially when "distance lends enchantment to the view," one of the pleasantest and most charming of villages. Elegant habitations rise upon the borders of the sea; there the rich merchants of Constantinople have their country houses; and there, upon the terrace, after sunset, Greek and Armenian ladies promenade, in dresses rich and superb. The hotel recently erected has a large garden, in which the branches of a splendid plane tree expand themselves; and among the boughs is a little bower, shaded by a parasol of leaves. Visitors, while admiring this tree, are informed that in a plain, at the end of the chief street of the village, is another much more enormous, and known as "the plane tree of Godfrey of Bouillon."

A wonderful tree it is! The trunk, composed of an agglomeration of seven or eight stems, resembles a tower dilapidated in part; enormous roots, like giant serpents, half hidden in the ground, creep upon the soil, and the boughs have rather the appearance of trees than branches. In its sides are black caverns, formed by decay, in which the herdsman sits as in a grotto, and makes fires. It is majestically picturesque, with monstrous masses of foliage, over which centuries have glided like drops of rain.

#### STREET IN THERAPIA, CONSTANTINOPLE.

OUR other engraving represents Therapia, a suburb of Constantinople, where the English and French Ambassadors have their summer residences. The locality is altogether delightful, and the quay is bordered by *cafés*, inns, pleasure houses, and gardens. The French Embassy is a vast Turkish pile, behind which rise terraced gardens, planted with ancient trees of enormous growth.



ROAD TO BUYUKDERE.



STREET IN THERAPIA.





A PARTY OF THE NAVAL BRIGADE ON THEIR WAY TO THE TRENCHES.—(FROM A SKETCH BY JULIAN PORTCH.)

REMINISCENCES OF THE CAMP BEFORE SEBASTOPOL.

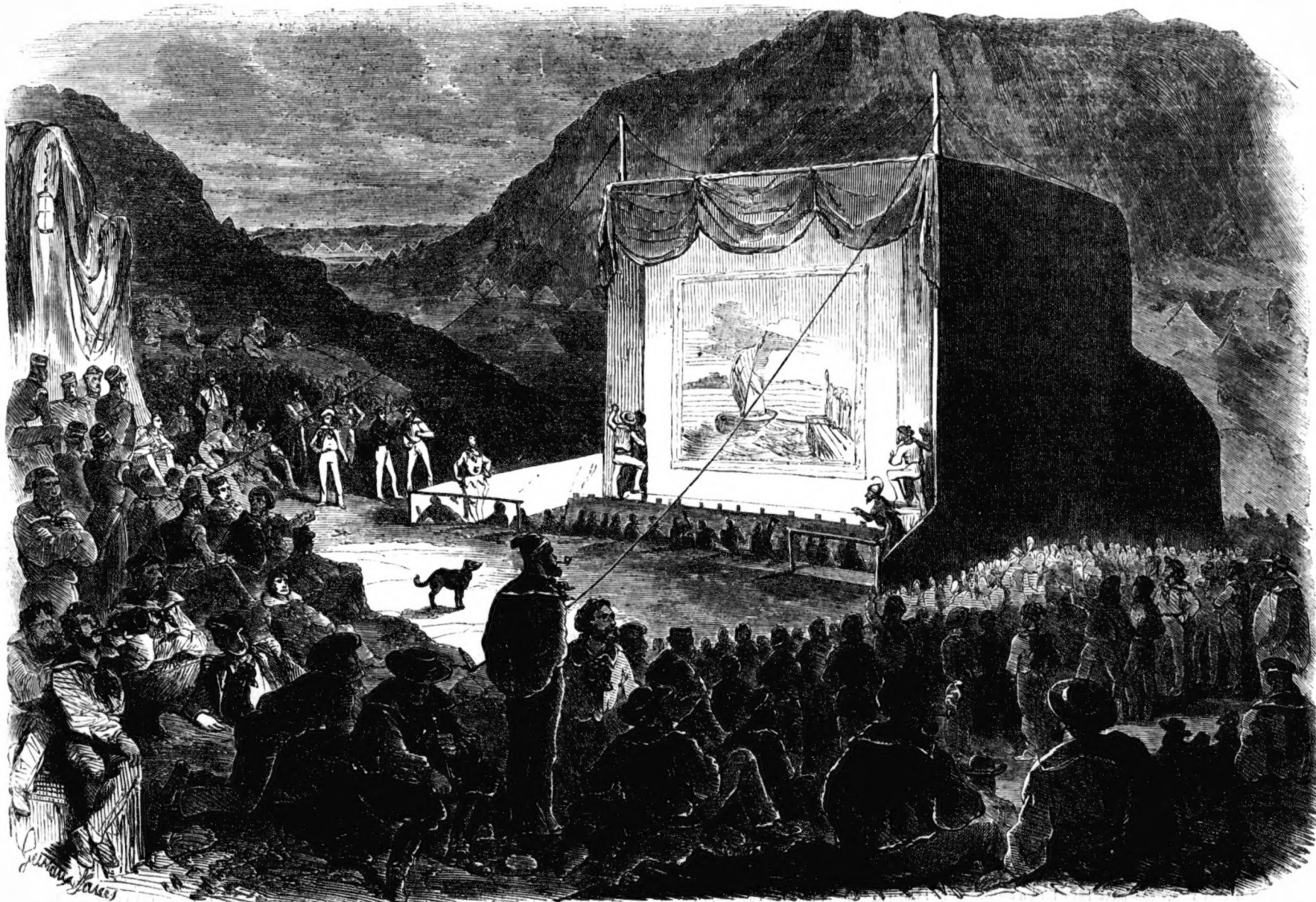
NO. V.—THE NAVAL BRIGADE.

THE brave Sir Edmund Lyons, on the occasion of the entertainment offered to him at the Mansion House, prior to his departure to resume the command of the Black Sea Fleet, said, in reference to the Naval Brigade,

that he bore willing testimony to its gallant conduct and distinguished merits. "Under Sir S. Lushington, and then under Captain Keppel, the Naval Brigade," he observed, "witnessed and participated in the brilliant actions of the army, between which and itself there was always the most honourable rivalry and friendly emulation. All behaved well. But I doubt if, in the whole history of chivalry, anything finer could be found

than the conduct of Captain Peel and his two gallant aides-de-camp, one of whom, when wounded, placed the scaling-ladders against the walls of the Redan."

It was not in acts of valour alone that the Naval Brigade distinguished itself before the walls of Sebastopol. It performed much of the hard work connected with conveying the heavy ships' guns, with stores of ammuni-



THE ENTERTAINMENT OF THE NAVAL BRIGADE BY CAPTAIN KEPPEL AT SEBASTOPOL.



tion, to the front. What does Mr. Russell say in reference to their labours? Why, that Jack was of essential service! "The only thing against him," he observes, "is that he is too strong. He pulls strong carts to pieces as if they were toys. He piles up shot-cases in the ammunition wagons till the horses fall under the weight; for he cannot understand 'the ship starting till the hold is full.' He takes long pulls and strong pulls at tow-ropes till they give like sewing silk; and he is indefatigable in 'rousing' crazy old vehicles up-hill, and running full speed with them down hill, till they fall to pieces. Many a heap of shot and shell by the roadside marks the scenes of such disasters; but Jack's good humour during this spree on shore, is inexhaustible, and he comes back for the massive cargo from the camp with the greatest willingness when he is told it must be got up ere nightfall. It is most cheering to meet a set of these jolly fellows working up a gun to the camp. From a distance you hear some rough hearty English chorus borne on the breeze over the hill-side. As you approach the unmistakable strains of a Gosport fiddle, mingled with the squeaks of a marine life, rise up through the unaccustomed vales of the Crimea. A cloud of dust on the ascent marks their coming, and tugging up the monster gun on its cradle, with a stamp and go, strange cries and oaths, sworn by some thirty tars, all flushed with honest exercise, while the officer in charge tries to moderate their excessive energies, and to induce the two or three hairy Hercules who are sitting astride on the gun, or on the few horses in front, with vine leaves in their hats or flowers in their hair, to dismount and leave off the music. The astonishment of the stupid fur-capped Crim-Tartars, as they stare at this wondrous apparition on its way, is ludicrous to a degree; but Turk, Crim, Russian, or Greek are all the same to Jack, and he is certain to salute every foreigner who goes by while in this state, with the universal shibboleth of "Bono! bonno! Johnny!"

The Naval Brigade suffered very severely during the siege. At one period it had lost more men than all our siege train, working and covering parties put together. With a view to the protection of the men, orders were given for those engaged at the guns to keep under cover, and not to tempt the rifle bullets of the enemy. One sea-dog, indignant at this interference with his rights, was overheard to exclaim to a comrade: "I say, Jack! they want let a fellow go and look where his shot is; we ain't afraid, we aint; that's what I call hard lines!"

Our artist, during a visit he paid to the trenches before Sebastopol, left his horse in charge of the sailors at the 21-gun battery; a position of some danger, it appears, for horses while quietly grazing there, were frequently picked off by a shot or shell. He writes, "I saw a beautiful horse, or rather the remains of one, lying with a great hole in his ribs, on the plain between the battery and the picket-house. This, the sailors told me, was the property of an officer, who came on a visit to the trenches, and the poor beast, it seems, was killed by a round-shot, while grazing; and yet there is a horse tied up outside the 'Greenhill battery,' which, the sailors said, had been there for two months. Do what the Russians would, they never could manage to hit it. I have myself seen shells falling about him on all sides, and yet not one has touched the poor beast. They say he is placed there to chaff the Russians on the precision of their fire. I was pleased to find my own horse quite safe; apparently very contented, munching some grass which the sailors had gathered for him."

"After my walk of above a mile up here, on the rugged stones and through the slippery mud, I was desperately tired; so I sat myself down in one of the escape-holes, which are to be found in the batteries, but not in the trenches—why not, I don't know; and after satisfying the cravings of hunger, and taking a pull at my brandy-flask, I went to sleep, subject to constant jerks from the shots thumping against the other side of the battery. I woke about five o'clock, at broad daylight, and saw a party of the Naval Brigade coming across the plain to relieve their comrades, as is the case every twelve hours. The sight was invigorating, they looked so fresh and well, their nondescript dresses giving them more the appearance of smugglers or pirates than first-class seamen in her Majesty's service. I took a sketch of them from my cave, which sketch I send. The dog belongs to one of the ships—his name is 'Watch,' and he is a great favourite amongst them. He had smelt powder many a time before this visit. I bribed one of the new comers to make me some cocoa, which he brought to me in a large stew-pan, with a tin mug to pour it into. I was not very particular as to the utensil, when the contents were so hot and good. It was just what I fancied, so that with some ship biscuits, I made a first-rate breakfast. I then returned to the trench to take my leave of the gentlemen who had to stop there until seven in the evening. It was still raining in torrents. I saddled my horse, and galloped home as hard as I could through pools of water and mud, splashed up to the eyes and soaked down to the boots."

"The scenes on the road were very distressing, as well as amusing; some of the soldiers were baling the water out of their tents with every description of utensil; others were worse off, for they were struggling with their tents on the ground, which tents looked like so many gigantic umbrellas. I was very glad to get on board ship again, and turn into my berth."

Our other illustration represents the theatre of the Naval Brigade, and of this our artist wrote as follows:—"On the night of my visit, the performances consisted of 'As Deaf as a Post,' 'The Silent Woman,' and 'Slasher and Crasher,' besides songs and dances innumerable. The affair was entirely got up by the common sailors, and it really does them infinite credit. In the sketch, please to notice that the drop scene represents 'A French Lagger entering Calais,' very well painted with ship's paint. As regards the acting, the gentlemen were perhaps too stiff, and the ladies (?) a trifle too thick waisted; and then there was a sad fault—the songs and dances were a trifle too broad. One of the most amusing things of the evening, was to see Jack with a red face, but decidedly good legs, come on, dressed in pink gauze, &c., and dance a *serious* ballet. This created much laughter, although the man did his best, and preserved the most decorous countenance throughout. Jack has the first of patronage. On the opening night the Duke of Newcastle honoured him with his presence, and this evening General Simpson was expected. These very great nobles are put into a private box, a kind of cave at the back, on the extreme left of my sketch, and there is a wide space railed off in front for the officers. The histrionic artistes, orchestra, and stage appointments, all belonged to the ship *London*, and the theatre was a large appropriately shaped and decorated tent, pitched in the bottom of the ravine; and the audience looked on and applauded from their *ad fresco* seats along the ascending slope of the hill. If the boisterous satisfaction expressed by the ringing palms and right vigorous lungs of the hundreds who crowded the hill-side can be in any way accepted as proof of excellence, Messrs. Wright and Buckstone never surpassed the nautical knights of the buskin, who gave bodily and vocal shape to the fun contained in the three farces."

## Literature.

*Recollections of the Table-Talk of Samuel Rogers.* To which is added "Porsoniana." London: Moxon.

In one respect, this book disappoints us. It contains few of Rogers's "good things." It has many capital anecdotes. It preserves the *mot* of several brilliant men of the last generation. But it scarcely contains any of the poet's own. Yet Rogers was always reputed a great colloquial wit, and in our boyhood, the weekly papers used to give Sam Rogers (as they termed him) all the *dicta* current—just as Talleyrand once had everything fathered on him—and just as Chesterfield had a hundred years ago. Especially are we sorry to see that, where our Editor does repeat a *bon-mot* of the poet's (viz., that he did not want to learn the "Art of Memory," but the Art of Forgetting), that *bon-mot* is old! The truth is, it is in "Plutarch," where there are more fine sayings than you would now hear if you listened to every *disseur* of the time for a twelvemonth!

Why did Mr. Dyce (for we believe that Mr. Dyce is the editor) neglect this department? We cannot say; for he has performed his general work very well. He gives us many capital anecdotes, which will enrich the pages of our historians and biographers, and help our descendants to know our famous men. He must have been a discriminating as well as attentive listener, for he does not encumber his pages with the trivialities, the loose gossip—silly jokes and scandalous *historiettes*, which too often

occupy the pages of the "Ana." Some editors are too solemn, some too lively; this one preserves a due medium. He does not give us a mixture of dates from parish registers and twaddle of his own (defying you to say which is duller, the dead or the living), but inserts information where it is needed, and where it is not needed holds his tongue. And it is not so easy to annotate well, as it may appear at first sight. It is often as hard to write a neat note (smart, comprehensive, pleasant, like a cracker *bon-bon*) as to write a whole chapter. Gibbon is perhaps the pink of annotators; but there are many grades from Gibbon down to —; and we have seen notes to important books, like Johnson's "Lives of the Poets," about as agreeable as so many thumb-marks would be.

After this preamble, let us see if we can cull some choice passages, doing justice at once to subject, talker, editor, and reviewer. Our editor arranges his topics under separate heads,—but not alphabetically, like editors of "Ana," in general. The first extract shall illustrate the extraordinary range of Rogers's acquaintance, both in matter of time and of place:—

"The most memorable day perhaps which I ever passed was at Edinburgh—a Sunday; when, after breakfasting with Robertson, I heard him preach in the forenoon, and Blair in the afternoon, then took coffee with the Pizzis, and supped with Adam Smith. Robertson's sermon was excellent, both for matter and manner of delivery. Blair's was good, but less impressive; and his broad Scotch accent offended my ears greatly."

"My acquaintance with Mr. and Mrs. Pizzis began at Edinburgh, being brought about by the landlord of the hotel where they and I were staying. He thought that I should be gratified by 'hearing Mr. Pizzis's pianoforte,' and they called on me, on learning from the landlord who I was, and that Adam Smith, Robertson, and Mackenzie had left cards for me."

"I was afterwards very intimate with the Pizzis, and visited them often at Streamham. The world was most unjust in blaming Mrs. Thrale for marrying Pizzis: he was a very handsome, gentlemanly, and amiable person, and made her a very good husband. In the evening he used to play to us most beautifully on the piano. Her daughters never would see her after that marriage; and (poor woman) when she was at a very great age, I have heard her say that 'she would go down upon her knees to them, if they would only be reconciled to her.'"

Robertson died in 1793! The paragraph about Johnson's old friend, Mrs. Thrale, is interesting. Croker, in "Boswell," hints that she was insane. Gifford, in a satire, brutally calls her "Thrale's Gilt Woman." Let the authority of a superior man speak for her against both. Johnson did not like her marriage with Pizzis, but chiefly on the score of her age and her children, and the great respect he felt for Mr. Thrale's memory."

In the section devoted to Horne Tooke, there are three jokes in succession which have been printed before—two in books so common as Lord Brougham's,—while the third is attributed to Flood as well as Tooke. But we are glad of the following:—

"I paid five guineas (in conjunction with Boddington) for a 'loge' at Tooke's trial.—It was the custom in those days (and perhaps is so still) to place bunches of strong-smelling plants of different sorts at the bar where the criminal was to sit (I suppose, to purify the air from the contagion of his presence). This was done at Tooke's trial; but, as soon as he was brought in, he indignantly swept them away with his handkerchief. The trial lasted six days. Erskine (than whom nobody had ever more power over a jury,—he would frequently address them as his 'little twelvies') defended Tooke most admirably: nay, he showed himself not only a great orator, but a great actor; for, on the fifth day, when the Attorney-General, Eldon, was addressing the jury, and was using a line of argument which Erskine had not expected, and could not reply to (the pleading for the prisoner being closed), I will remember how Erskine the whole time kept turning towards the jury, and by a series of significant looks, shrugs, and shakings of his head, did all he could to destroy the effect of what the Attorney-General was saying.—After a very long speech, Eldon, with the perspiration streaming down his face, came into the room where the Lord Mayor was sitting, and exclaimed, 'Mr. Tooke says that he should like to send Mr. Pitt to Botany Bay; but it would be more merciful to make him Attorney-General.'—When Eldon was told that the mob had taken away the horses from Erskine's carriage, and drawn him home in triumph to Serjeants' Inn, he asked 'If they had ever returned them?'"

"At the conclusion of the trial, a daughter of one of the jurymen was anxious to be introduced to Tooke; who, shaking her by the hand, said very prettily, 'I must call you sister, for you are the daughter of one of those to whom I owe my life.'—If Tooke had been convicted, there is no doubt that he would have been hanged. We lived then under a reign of terror."

The world will never tire of stories of Sheridan, we feel sure:— "Sheridan did not display his admirable powers in company until he had been warmed by wine. During the earlier part of dinner he was generally heavy and silent; and I have heard him, when invited to drink a glass of wine, reply, 'No, thank you; I'll take a little small beer.' After dinner, when he had had a tolerable quantity of wine, he was brilliant indeed. But when he went on swallowing too much, he became downright stupid; and I once, after a dinner party at the house of Edwards, the bookseller, in Pall Mall, walked with him to Brookes's, when he had absolutely lost the use of speech."

"Sheridan once said to me, 'When posterity read the speeches of Burke, they will hardly be able to believe, that during his life-time he was not considered as a first-rate speaker, not even as a second rate one.'"

On the whole, the Sheridan section is poor; and in it, too, a very well-known *bon-mot* re-appears. Yet old stories are rare in the volume, much more so than in many such books, as, for instance, the "Walpoliana."

Pitt now appears on the scene. How those George the Third men took their wine!

"During his boyhood, Pitt was very weakly; and his physician, Addington (Lord Sidmouth's father) ordered him to take port wine in large quantities: the consequence was, that when he grew up he could not do without it. Lord Grenville has seen him swallow a bottle of port in tumblers, before going to the House. This, together with his habit of eating late suppers (indigestible cold meat pies, &c.), helped undoubtably to shorten his life. Huskisson, speaking to me of Pitt, said that his hands shook so much, that when he helped himself to salt, he was obliged to support the right hand with the left."

"Stothard the painter happened to be one evening at an inn on the Kent Road, when Pitt and Dundas put up there on their way from Walmer. Next morning, as they were stepping into their carriage, the waiter said to Stothard, 'Sir, do you observe these two gentlemen?'—'Yes,' he replied; 'and I know them to be Mr. Pitt and Mr. Dundas.' 'Well, sir, how much wine do you suppose they drank last night?'—Stothard could not guess.—'Seven bottles, sir.'"

We have to make the same remark upon the notices of Byron that we did on those of Sheridan. We extract two specimens. But Rogers can never have thought of Byron with pleasure, or even patience, after that awful lampoon beginning—

"Nose and chin would shame a knocker,  
Wrinkles that would puzzle Cocker."

and hence we attach no great importance to what he says of him:—

"If Moore had made me his confidant in the business, I should have protested warmly against the destruction of the 'Memoirs;' but he chose Luttrell, probably because he thought him the more fashionable man; and Luttrell, who cared nothing about the matter, readily voted that they should be put into the fire.—There were, I understand, some gross things in that manuscript; but I read only a portion of it, and did not light upon them. I remember that it contained this anecdote:—On his marriage night, Byron suddenly started out of his first sleep: a taper, which burned in the room, was casting a ruddy glare through the crimson curtains of the bed; and he could not help exclaiming, in a voice so loud that he awakened Lady B., 'Good God, I am surely in hell!'"

"One day, during dinner at Pisa, when Shelley and Trelawney were with us, Byron chose to run down Shakespeare (for whom he, like Sheridan, either had, or pretended to have, little admiration) I said nothing. But Shelley immediately took up the defence of the great poet, and conducted it in his usual meek yet resolute manner, unmoved by the rude things with which Byron interrupted him.—'Oh, that's very well for an atheist,' &c. (Before meeting Shelley in Italy, I had seen him only once. It was at my own house in St. James's Place, where he called upon me—introducing himself—to request the loan of some money which he wished to present to Leigh Hunt; and he offered me a bond for it. Having numerous claims upon me at that time, I was obliged to refuse the loan. Both in appearance and in manners Shelley was the perfect gentleman.) That same day, after dinner, I walked in the garden with Byron. At the window of a neighbouring house, was a young woman with a child in her arms. Byron nodded to her with a smile, and then turning to me, said, 'That child is mine.' In the evening, we (i.e., Byron, Shelley, Trelawney, and I) rode out from Pisa to a farm (a 'podere'); and there a pistol was put into my hand for shooting at a mark (a favourite amusement of Byron); but I declined trying my skill with it. The farm-keeper's daughter was very pretty, and had her arms covered with bracelets, the gift of Byron, who did not fail to let me know that she was one of his many loves."

The Editor adds a "Porsoniana"—a collection of stories about that great scholar, and sayings of his by his friend Maltby. No man ever said better things than Porson; and, considering how very meagre the old "Porsoniana" (a pamphlet published soon after his death, which this Editor does not mention) is, we are delighted to receive the compilation. But those who would know how much wit, Greek, and liquor can be held by one human being, must go to the book itself, for our time is up.

## INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. IX.

LORD PALMERSTON

LORD PALMERSTON is "the foremost man in all the House." Strange, who enter the House for the first time generally ask, "Which is the Premier?" and especially is this the case with foreigners—no sooner do they seated but they enquire about for some one to show them *Palmerston*. Those strangers who cannot get into the House, and who wish to see the Noble Lord, should place themselves in the lobby. About five o'clock, on any day, when the House sits, he may be seen crossing from the new staircase to the House; but the strangers must keep a sharp look out, for he will be gone before they catch a glimpse of him—for the grim monster grows near the feet of the Noble Lord—he always moves at a great pace. When he arrives at the door, his messenger, waiting there, hands him his despatch-box; he then swings through the door, and proceeds along the left division-lobby enters the House at the back of the Speaker's chair, and takes his seat about the middle of the Treasury Bench; there he sits with his hat on, his face in deep shadow, looking as if he were fast asleep through the whole of the sitting, excepting for about half an hour, when he adjourns to the refreshment rooms, or when he goes to address the House. But, as the proverb says, "Catch a vessel asleep," the Hon. Member who may fancy that the Noble Lord is napping, and takes the opportunity to say something smart touching his Lordship, certainly very soon discover his mistake. We believe the Noble Lord seldom sleeps in the House, and when he does, he sleeps as the cat is said to do when they watch at a mouse-hole.

HIS APPEARANCE, DRESS, AND APPLICATION TO BUSINESS.

Lord Palmerston is, we should say, about five feet ten inches in height, looks about 55 years old—not more, albeit he is turned 70—wears a grey wig, a dart, and steps out like a soldier. He always, in the House, wears a surcoat coat, buttoned up close, dark trousers, and black necktie. His Lordship does not affect preciseness nor fashion in dress, like his opponent Disraeli, or his colleague Mr. Vernon Smith. We have seen Cabinet Ministers frequently in full dress on the Treasury Bench, but Lord Palmerston never. Indeed, from the opening of the Parliament till the prorogation, he seems, to us, to eschew all pleasure, sticking to the House as a diligent tradesman sticks to his shop. Further, after the day's labour, even though the House sat far into the morning, we have heard that he generally walks home. We passed him ourselves one morning, in broad daylight, last session, in Parliament Street; he was chatting away as briskly as if he had freshly risen from his bed; and yet that day there had been a morning-sitting, and he was in his seat soon after one p.m., and then it was past two a.m.

HIS SPEAKING.

Lord Palmerston is not an orator—at least, not of the old school. He never attempts lofty eloquence; but he is a clear and effective speaker, and very sagacious; long experience, of course, has made him so. He not only knows exactly what to say, but what also to leave unsaid. And, of course, he is always listened to with profound attention, not merely because he speaks as one having authority, but also on account of his great talents, long official career, and boundless knowledge. When some men, even some Ministers rise, there is a rush of Members to the door; but if it is announced in the lobby, or in the dining-room, &c., on an important night, that "Pam." is up, the House is filled as if by magic.

HIS WIT.

A good deal has been said about the joking propensities of the Premier far more than is due. The fact is, that the Noble Lord, considering the number of speeches which he makes, does not often launch a joke, and never, whatsoever may be said to the contrary, on a serious subject. When he indulges in wit, it is in return for some wit that has been thrown at him, and frequently those who have been the losers at this game, have been the men to preach seriousness to their Noble Opponent. Mr. Bright used often to allude to the Premier's levity, but we imagine he will not soon do it again; for the last lecture on this topic which he delivered, was met by such a happy retort, that the House was convulsed with laughter, in which the Hon. Member for Manchester himself could not help joining. Mr. Bright, during a long speech, had scolded the Premier for his witty sallies and general levity; but quite forgetting to apply his sermon to himself, he had tried his hand at some rather ponderous jokes. In reply, the Noble Lord said, "The Hon. Member has taken me to task for what he is pleased to call my levity. Now, it is rather remarkable, that in the Hon. Member's speech there were no less than ten jokes. I cannot, however, find fault with the levity of these jokes, for there was no *levity* in them." One peculiarity of Lord Palmerston's wit ought not to be unnoticed—it seldom, if ever, wounds. Indeed, the very man against whom it is directed may often be heard joining in the general chorus of laughter, and the Premier himself laughs also—and laughs heartily, too. There is this marked difference between him and his opponent Disraeli: Palmerston's witty sallies are evidently suggested by a love of fun, quite as much as by a desire to lit an opponent; Disraeli's shafts are too frequently hurled with a spiteful intent. Palmerston laughs with genuine merriment; Disraeli seldom or never laughs, either at his own or others' jokes—unless a sardonic curl of the lip, or the faintest ray of a smile, may be called a laugh.

## THE HOUSE'S LOVE OF FUN.

*Apocryph* of fun. There is nothing more acceptable to the House than a laughable interlude; and he that will set it in a roar is always an acceptable performer. And, really, the House of Commons indulging in an explosion of mirth is a sight worth seeing. We have witnessed it often—Speaker, clerks, Premier, Serjeant-at-Arms, reporters, and strangers are laughing. Mr. Doyle, if he should ever continue his "Manners and Customs of ye Englyshe," would do well to make a sketch of the laughing legislative assembly, in one of its merriest moods.

There was a scene, last session, which would have been exactly the thing for Doyle's pencil. The House was very full, and listening with great gravity to some earnest speaker, when an Honourable Member, rather lame in the feet, hobbled in; and, in search for a seat, crossed between the member addressing the House and the Speaker. This is contrary to rule, and called forth loud cries of "order!" The poor man, seemingly quite unconscious of his offence, hobbled back again, and thus repeated it. "Order!" "order!" "order!" was shouted from all parts of the House; and now commenced the fun. The lower benches of the House were full; the offending member was quite confused, and seemed to have entirely lost his presence of mind. He looked hither and thither, west to this side and then to that, and was for all the world like a dog shut in between two lines of spectators waiting for a procession. "Order!" "order!" called the Speaker, in sonorous voice. "Order!" "order!" echoed the members, mingling their cries with peals of laughter at the Hon. Member's confusion. At length, to crown the whole, the Hon. Member rushed to the gangway, and fancying in his confusion that the step was a bench, he plumped down, hoping that now, at length, he was safe; but alas, it was no bench, but a mere s.e.p. much lower than he expected; and, instead of sitting, he fell backwards, and threw his legs in the air. This, of course, was a climax—a perfect explosion of mirth broke out. It is fair, however, to say, that when it was perceived that the Hon. Member needed assistance to help him up, the mirth was stopped in a moment, and eager inquiries made whether the Hon. Member was hurt. Fortunately, this was not the case, and as he was conducted to his seat behind, the House gave him another salutation of laughter, in which he joined heartily; when this had subsided, the Hon. Member who was speaking resumed his remarks.

## TAKE CARE OF "DOWB."

Nothing worthy of special notice has occurred in the House during the last week, excepting the relation, by General Evans, of a funny incident of the war, which, as perhaps it may have escaped the notice of our readers, we will repeat:—One morning the Commander-in-chief, General Simpson, received a telegraphic despatch, and at the close were these words, "Take care of Dowb." The General was puzzled exceedingly. "Dowb? Dowb? Where is Dowb?" The General had never heard of such a place, nor had any of his staff. Was it an outpost? a redoubt? or a pass? At last a telegraphic message was sent back to the effect, "Which is Dowb?" and soon a reply was received. And it turned out that "Dowb" was not a place, but a man, to wit, "Major Dowbiggin," in whom Lord Panmure is peculiarly interested.



## Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 29.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.

Petitions were presented against the abolition of church-rates, and against the opening of the National Gallery and British Museum on Sundays.

## TORTURE IN INDIA.

The Earl of ALBEMARLE moved for returns connected with the taxation of the natives of India, the means employed to levy it, and the character of the officers of police and revenue, in illustration of the official report recently laid before Parliament on the system of torture used by the Government agents in the Presidency of Madras. It was almost incredible, he said, that such a system should have existed for 50 years; that for so long a period the native population should have been subjected to the cruelty of agents, who, acting as police and collectors of revenue, were often themselves merely associations of thieves. It was the duty of the Legislature to regard with mistrust everything proceeding from the Indian Government, which had always been merciless in its administration whenever its revenue was concerned. The English Government was also partly responsible, but rather in theory than reality, for the division of powers in the present system practically reduced the responsibility of both to a fiction; otherwise torture could not have been continually used for half a century among 20,000,000 of people, without the public in England being aware of it.

Lord GRANVILLE consented to produce the papers, but urged that sufficient responsibility existed among all the departments of the Company's service.

The motion was agreed to.  
The Commons Enclosure Bill was read a second time.  
The Joint-Stock Banks (Scotland) Bill was read a third time and passed, and the House adjourned at 20 minute past six o'clock.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Petitions were presented against the opening of places of public amusement on Sundays, and against the Counties and Boroughs Police Bill.  
The London Diocesan Church Building Society Bill was read a second time.

## NEW WRIT.

A new writ was ordered to be issued for the borough of Boston, in the room of Mr. G. H. Heathcote, who had accepted the Chiltern Hundreds.

## THE REPORT OF THE CRIMEAN COMMISSIONERS.

Mr. ROEBUCK brought forward his amendment, declaring that the appointment of a board of general officers to report upon the report of Sir J. M'Neill and Colonel Tulloch was to substitute an inefficient for an efficient mode of inquiry, and that the effect of such an appointment will be to hide the misconduct of those by whom various departments of our army had been placed under the command of officers who have been incriminated by the commissioners empowered to inquire into their conduct. Admitting that some disadvantages attended the ventilation of such a question at a moment when peace and war seemed trembling in the balance, Mr. Roebuck declared that it was not his fault if the Government had built a wall and then run their heads against it. In the natural order of things this report should have been treated as a bill of indictment, and the functionaries in question tried before a court-martial. Instead, however, of adopting this course the Government had appointed a commission to report upon the report of their own commissioners; so that Sir J. M'Neill and Colonel Tulloch would be placed upon their trial beside the officers whose conduct they had impugned. This proceeding, he contended, would result in stultifying the inquiry and shielding the guilty parties, and must tend to inflict an irreparable injury upon the military system of the country.

Sir J. PAKINGTON regretted that the Government had not allowed the question to be presented in a shape which would have allowed him to move the amendment of which he had given notice. Being thus precluded from submitting his own proposition to the House, he felt it compelled to dissent from the resolution brought forward by Mr. Roebuck.

Mr. F. PEEL concurred in the opinion that any discussion on the subject in hand was altogether premature. Observing that the charges brought against certain officers of the Crimean army were on the brink of trial, he censured Mr. Roebuck for seeking to prejudice the case and prejudice the defendants.

Mr. BENTINCK reviewed the course pursued by Mr. Roebuck himself since the commencement of the session, and censured him for having hazarded many rash and unsupported assertions. He did not believe that the Government deserved acquittal, but nevertheless could not join in the present vote of censure.

Mr. LAYARD urged many objections to the new commission, maintaining that the inquiry must, from the nature of things, prove far less fair and satisfactory than that conducted by the commissioners whose report was submitted to them for revision. By discussing and promoting officers who lay under heavy censure in the report, the Government had prejudged the cause, and the House Guards had defied public opinion.

Colonel NORTH declared that the member for Aylesbury had undertaken a crusade against the army, whose character and services he warmly vindicated.

Sir DE LACY EVANS specified a number of instances, from which he drew the conclusion that Government had behaved badly towards the army, and uncandidly towards the country. Important returns were still withheld, and no means afforded of arriving at a sound judgment respecting events and negligence of the utmost gravity. Commenting upon the system of army promotion, he remarked that all the chief command and staff appointments were filled up from the desks of the War Office. The Gallant Member related many anecdotes of the war, chiefly with the view of exhibiting the various antics which he said the War Minister had played with the telegraph.

Mr. GLADSTONE regretted that so much latitude had been given to a debate which, as all parties seemed to acknowledge, was misplaced and premature. With respect to the conduct of the Government, he commented upon their treatment of the Crimean commissioners, remarking that, by the terms of the warrant appointing the new board, much disparagement was cast upon their report, whose authority was not defended with any spirit by the Under-Secretary for War in his speech.

Lord PALMERSTON observed that the character which the debate had assumed proved how inappropriate had been the time chosen for its introduction. Strong censures had provoked or justified vehement replies, and the discussion had often degenerated into an interchange of personalities. Adverting to the report of the commissioners, he denied that the Government intended to disparage their authority or cast any reflection on their veracity by the appointment of a Board of Officers to examine their statements. How else, he asked, would it be possible for the officers whose conduct was censured to enter upon their defence, and what better tribunal could be found to decide upon the question of personal culpability? If the report had been kept back, as had been suggested, until all the persons concerned had prepared their vindication, the Government would have fallen under heavy censure for suppressing important information. After defending the appointments given to Lord Cardigan and General Airey, the Noble Lord submitted that the imputations thrown out in Mr. Roebuck's resolution were both ill-timed and unjust.

Explanations having been made by Sir de Lacy Evans and Mr. F. Peel, Mr. ROEBUCK withdrew his amendment amidst much laughter, and the House went into committee of supply.

## SUPPLY.

A single vote of 6½ millions, on account of the pay, &c., of the army, was taken, and the House resumed.

The Consolidated Fund (£1,631,005 1s. 5d.) Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Mutiny Bill, and the Marine Mutiny Bill, were read a second time, after a brief conversation, in which complaints respecting the injustice of the bill were urged by several Hon. Members.

Mr. W. PATTEN obtained leave to bring in a bill to amend the law relating to the fencing of machinery in factories.

The House adjourned at ten minutes past twelve.

## MONDAY, MARCH 3.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.

Petitions were presented against the opening of places of amusement on Sundays, and against the abolition of church-rates.

## JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Lord BROUGHAM moved a series of resolutions on the subject of judicial statistics; he described the deficiencies of the present returns from the civil and criminal courts, and the want of plan or system in the manner in which they were made, comparing with it the superior practice of the French Government in this respect.

After a few words from the Lord Chancellor, the returns were ordered.  
The Commons Enclosure Bill went through committee. Their Lordships adjourned at a quarter to seven o'clock.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Petitions were presented against the opening of the Crystal Palace, &c., on Sundays; against and in favour of the total abolition of church-rates; in favour of the bill to amend the laws respecting medical practitioners; and against the Police (Counties and Boroughs) Bill.

## THE DEBATE OF FRIDAY EVENING.—PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS.

Sir DE LACY EVANS explained, and in some measure apologised for, certain statements he had made during Friday's debate respecting the conduct of Colonel Gordon, the Duke of Cambridge, General Simpson, and other officers. Letters, it appeared, had passed between himself and the representatives of the officers in question, which had resulted in correcting various misapprehensions in the opinions previously entertained by the Gallant Member, and under this new view of the circumstances, he complied with a sense of duty in setting before the House the extent and causes of this modification in his former convictions. Referring to a statement made by Lord Claud Hamilton, that he had after the

battle of Inkermann advised Lord Raglan to abandon the Crimea, Sir de Lacy Evans declared himself ready to give full explanations on the subject at a fitting opportunity.

Lord CLAUD HAMILTON, after expressing his satisfaction at the withdrawal of the principal charges against Colonel Gordon, was proceeding to repeat and enforce his accusation against Sir de Lacy Evans, respecting the suggestion of retreat from before Sebastopol, when the House interposed with so unmistakable an expression of disapproval, that the Noble Lord broke off his remarks on the topic.

Mr. A. GORDON also rejoiced to find the character of his relative so satisfactorily vindicated, but was in like manner stopped when attempting to introduce some counter charges against the Gallant Member for Westminster.

Lord PALMERSTON suggested the propriety of allowing all personal topics to drop, after the full and satisfactory explanation given by Sir de Lacy Evans.

Mr. DISRAELI having spoken in a similar sense, the subject was permitted to drop.

## TAX ON UNDER-GARDENERS.

Colonel HARCOURT called the attention of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to the mode in which the tax (10s. 6d. per annum) on under-gardeners was assessed and levied.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said the question turned on the construction of a clause in an act relating to the assessed taxes which was passed in 1853. That act imposed a tax of a guinea a year upon gardeners, and of half a guinea upon under-gardeners; but, although it defined what class of persons should be considered as gardeners, it did not give any definition of under-gardeners.

## RELATIONS BETWEEN ENGLAND AND PERSIA.

Mr. LAYARD called attention to the present state of the diplomatic relations between England and Persia. Recapitulating the incidents which had led to the departure of Mr. Murray from Teheran, and the consequent breach of official intercourse with the court of the Shah, Mr. Layard enlarged upon the uncertain position of affairs in Asia, and expressed much fear that, for the sake of following up an unworthy squabble, we were throwing Persia into the arms of Russia.

Lord PALMERSTON regretted that, while the Governments were still endeavouring to reconcile the misunderstanding which had arisen between England and Persia, a discreet silence had not been observed in Parliament on a subject which discussion would inevitably surround with augmented difficulties. After stating some particulars of the recent controversy at Teheran, and exculpating Mr. Murray, the Noble Lord declined to enter into the question as between the two countries, remarking that the dispute was still pending, but announcing that nothing like an actual breach of amicable relations had as yet taken place. Under these circumstances he hoped that the discussion would not be pursued further at the present moment.

## THE PRELIMINARIES OF PEACE.

Mr. DISRAELI inquired whether it was true, as reported, that the preliminaries of peace had been signed at Paris.

Lord PALMERSTON replied that, as the House was aware, certain articles had been proposed by Austria to Russia, with the previous consent of England and France, as conditions to serve as the foundation of a treaty of peace. These conditions were at first accepted by Russia, with a reservation, and afterwards unconditionally, or pure and simple. These articles were subsequently recorded in a protocol at Vienna, signed by the Plenipotentiaries. When the Conference commenced at Paris, it was agreed at the first meeting that the previous protocol should be inserted in the proceedings of that day, and it had been determined that that protocol and the articles which had been accepted should have the force and value of a preliminary treaty of peace. That was the precise state of the matter. No treaty of the ordinary form of a preliminary treaty had been signed.

## SUPPLY.

The House having gone into Committee of Supply, passed several votes on account of the army and ordnance services amidst a prolonged and miscellaneous discussion.

In Committee of Ways and Means, a vote of twenty-six millions was granted towards the services of the year.

## On Resuming.

The Trial of Offences Bill was read a second time, after a brief conversation.

The Annuities Bill and the Exchequer Bills Funding Bill were read a third time and passed.

The Mutiny Bill and the Marine Mutiny Bill went through committee.

The Out-Pensioners (Greenwich and Chelsea) Bill was read a second time.

The House adjourned at half-past twelve o'clock.

## TUESDAY, MARCH 4.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.

## ECCLESIASTICAL COURTS.

Lord BROUGHAM presented a petition, and spoke of the necessity of reforming the procedure of the Ecclesiastical Courts.

The LORD CHANCELLOR mentioned that three measures were in preparation for effecting important improvements—a Diocesan Bill, a Church Discipline Bill, and a Testamentary Jurisdiction Bill.

The Consolidated Fund (£1,631,005) Bill was read a second time.

## NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY.

Earl STANHOPE moved "That a humble address be presented to her Majesty, that her Majesty would be graciously pleased to take into her Royal consideration, in connection with the site of the present National Gallery, the practicability and expediency of forming by degrees a gallery of original portraits, such portraits to consist, as far as possible, of those persons who are most honourably commemorated in British history as warriors or as statesmen, or in arts, in literature, or in science."

The motion was agreed to, and the House adjourned at ten minutes to seven o'clock.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Petitions in great numbers were presented against the opening of the Crystal Palace, &c., on Sundays; a few against the abolition of church-rates, and in favour of the Local Dues Bill; and still fewer against the Police Bill, and in favour of the Medical Bill.

## THE ANNEXATION OF OUDE.

Mr. V. SMITH said, in reply to Mr. Cobden, it would be better not to lay the papers relating to it on the table at present. A despatch had been sent out to India, stating the various modes in which the maledominion of the kingdom of Oude might be corrected, and leaving it to the discretion of the Marquis of Dalhousie which of these modes he would employ. No official reply had yet been received to this despatch. At a subsequent period of the proceedings, returns were ordered with the view of showing the extent of the territories in India annexed to the British dominions since the close of the Punjab war, together with the pretext for such annexation, and the revenues accruing from each province so appropriated.

## THE FALL OF KABUL.

Lord PALMERSTON laid on the table some papers relating to the siege and surrender of Kabul.

## SALE OF COMMISSIONS IN THE ARMY.

Sir DE LACY EVANS moved the appointment of a select committee to "consider, examine evidence, and report to the House on the expediency of abolishing the system of sale and purchase of commissions in the army, and on the means that may be adopted for the accomplishment of that object."

Lord GOSWICK seconded the motion.

Mr. PEEL said it required to be borne in mind that the British army was an army of 150 years succession, and that the system of purchase co-existed with its commencement. The present system indirectly benefited the non-purchasing class of officers, for this reason, that, when a commission exchanged hands, the officer who retired went out from the top of the list, and the officer who came in entered at the bottom, and by this means all the officers in the list were pushed up. It could not be asserted that non-commissioned officers were excluded from commissions—during 1855, no fewer than 150 commissions had been given without purchase. As to inquiry, he considered that the House was already in possession of all requisite information.

Lord STANLEY approved of the proposed inquiry, and apprehended that, if the present favourable opportunity be lost, it may not again return. The present system was anomalous.

Lord PALMERSTON admitted that his own abstract opinion was against the system of purchase; but it must also be admitted that the system has existed so long, and become so interwoven with the army, that the question of abolition must be approached with the utmost care. It must also be allowed that, under the system of purchase, much advantage has arisen as regarded the efficiency of the army. He did not think the question of expense would form any material difficulty. The opinion of the House seemed to be, that the matter should be inquired into, and on the part of the Government, he was willing to undertake that the question, in all its parts, shall be inquired into by a mixed commission.

Sir DE LACY EVANS expressed his satisfaction at the announcement, and the motion was withdrawn.

## EVASIONS OF TRUTH.

Mr. MACARTNEY moved for the appointment of a select committee to inquire into the circumstances attending the large payments of duties on the last year on the very day when a resolution augmenting the vote of impost on the article was laid before Parliament. The merchants, by whom these payments were made, he contended, must have obtained some surreptitious information from the functionaries of the Treasury.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER opposed the motion, which, he observed, was based upon nothing but a vague suspicion, while casting a discreditable imputation upon a public department.

Mr. MACARTNEY declined to press his motion, and it was accordingly negatived without a division.

## DWELLINGS FOR LABOURING CLASSES (IRELAND) BILL.

The second reading of the Dwellings for Labouring Classes (Ireland) Bill was

at first strenuously opposed; ultimately, however, the opponents gave way, and the bill was read a second time.

The Metropolis Local Management Act Amendment Bill was read a second time. The House adjourned at twenty minutes to one o'clock.

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Colne Valley and Haistead Railway Bill was read a second time.

The East Kent Railway Bill was read a second time after a brief discussion.

## CHURCH-RATES ABOLITION BILL.

Sir W. CLAY said that the decision in the House of Lords respecting the Brain-tree case had altered the position of the public in regard to this bill. This decision had very much narrowed the question, as it practically determined the fate of church-rates in at least a hundred important districts, for in these districts church-rates existed no longer. In many districts, however, there were still unseemly church-rate contests going on, and it was therefore high time a practical and speedy remedy was applied to this disgraceful state of things.

Lord JOHN MANNERS moved an amendment that the bill be read a second time this day six months, which was seconded by Sir S. Northcote.

Sir G. GREY said Government could not consent to the immediate and total abolition of church-rates throughout the kingdom, but thought the principle of this bill should be recognised.

After some further discussion, the House divided—For the second reading, 221; against it, 178; majority, 43.

Some other bills were advanced a stage, and the House adjourned at half-past five o'clock.

## THURSDAY, MARCH 7.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.

## EXCHEQUER BILLS FUNDING BILL.

The Exchequer Bills Funding Bill was read a second time, and, the standing orders having been suspended for that purpose, was immediately afterwards committed, read a third time, and passed.

## THE ANNUITIES BILL.

On the motion for the second reading of the Annuities Bill, Earl GREY interposed an urgent remonstrance against the tempting but unthrifty practice of providing for the war expenditure by borrowing money to so The Consolidated Fund (£1,631,008) Bill was read a third time, and passed. considerable a degree as had been recently practised.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

## NATIONAL EDUCATION.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL forwarded his resolutions on the subject of education. First, he wished to extend, revise, and consolidate the minutes of the Committee of Privy Council on Education. Secondly, without augmenting the present number of inspectors, to appoint a larger staff of sub-inspectors, whose individual duties should be concentrated upon special districts of manageable proportions. It was intended, moreover, to provide that in places where schools were deficient, the Council of Education should have power to order the levy of a compulsory rate, under conditions and upon a scale to be hereafter determined. Another resolution related to the most delicate and perplexing of all the questions involved in the subject—that, namely, of religious instruction. He proposed that in every school either wholly or partially supported by grants from the state or compulsory rates, there should be provision made for reading the Scriptures and affording instruction of a moral and religious character, but that every parent who entertained conscientious scruples might forbid his children from participating in those exercises. Respecting the cost of a more complete educational system, Lord J. Russell computed that instruction was required for 3,600,000 children, and would involve an expenditure of about £3,200,000.

Mr. HENLEY insisted particularly upon the advisability of retaining the religious element in our educational system.

Mr. ROEBUCK recommended the establishment of a secular system of education, believing that it would provide a basis for the dissemination of knowledge and moral principles throughout the country.

Mr. M. GIBSON remarked that the secular system was repudiated by Lord John Russell, because it was said to be opposed to public opinion. Of this antagonism he declared there was no proof, but on the contrary noticed that at 170 meetings recently held, resolutions had been passed approving the secular system, and condemning the proposal of denominational schools to be supported by compulsory rates.

Sir S. NORTHCOTE trusted that some provision would be made for the education of children who had fallen into crime, or were deserted by their natural protectors.

Lord PALMERSTON gave a willing acceptance to the resolutions, hoping that the difficulties which had baffled all previous efforts to legislate on the subject of education would be at length effectually overcome. He admitted the immense importance of providing some means of general instruction, and could not believe the allegation that indifference was felt on this point among any classes of the community. In some cases the opportunities for education were not very eagerly improved, the result was attributable to the inefficient or inappropriate quality of the instruction offered. The retention of the religious element he acknowledged to be indispensable, but trusted that, by the proposition so carefully drawn up by Lord John Russell, a satisfactory solution of that intricate problem would be at length attained.

Lord J. RUSSELL acknowledged the cordial reception given to his propositions, and proposed a committee of the whole House for April 10th, with the view of founding some definite measure upon them.

The Out-Pensioners (Greenwich and Chelsea) Bill, and the Consolidated Fund (£26,000,000) Bill went through committee, and the House adjourned at twenty minutes past one o'clock.

## THE ARMISTICE IN THE CRIMEA.

PARIS, Thursday morning.—From a despatch forwarded by General Pelissier, we learn that the fact of the intended armistice was known in the Crimea on the 25th ult. In a conference held on the 29th, at the bridge Traktir, between officers of the Staff of the Allied Armies and General Tatchmoff, the complete suspension of hostilities was agreed upon.

## E CAPE OF RUSSIAN STEAMERS FROM SWEABORG.

HAMBURG, March 6.—Two Russian war-steamer, accompanied by three gun-boats, have got out of Sweaborg, by breaking the ice. These ships have appeared in the Baltic.

## THE SOHO MURDER.

At the Central Criminal Court on Thursday, William Bousfield, aged 29, was placed at the bar to take his trial for the wilful murder of Sarah Bousfield. There were three other indictments against the prisoner, charging him also with the murder of three of his children.

After a recapitulation of the evidence, of which we gave the details in a former number, the jury returned a verdict of Guilty. The prisoner made no reply to the question whether he had anything to urge why sentence should not be passed upon him. He appeared to be overwhelmed with grief during the whole period of the trial, and never once looked up at any stage of the proceedings. After the sentence of death had been passed upon him, he was removed from the bar, apparently fainting.

FATAL DUEL BETWEEN M. TODLEBEN AND M. COHEN.—The "Messenger du Midi" relates the following:—"A short time since M. Cohen, a young Prussian engineer whom the English company charged with the construction of a section of a railway had placed at the head of their works, was at a night fête given at Berlin. Among the guests invited was a nephew of General Todleben, the celebrated Russian engineer. Towards the close of the evening, politics came on the tapis, when M. Cohen supported the cause of the Allies, and particularly that of France, and M. Todleben naturally that of Russia. The discussion at last became so violent that young Todleben, completely losing his temper, exclaimed, 'You are nothing but a vile Frenchman!' 'And you a vile Cossack!' was the reply. 'I defy you to support your opinions sword in hand,' said the nephew of the General. 'I accept for life and death!' replied M. Cohen. Swords were chosen, and a meeting arranged for the following morning, and it took place accordingly. Pistols were the weapons chosen, and at the second shot M. Todleben was struck in the heart and expired instantly. M. Cohen had his right arm broken. He was carried to the house of his brother, where he remains a prisoner *sur parole* until his trial."

A MASS FOR THE SOUL OF THE LATE CAZAR.—The Russian Greek chapel, in the Rue de Berry, Paris, was on Saturday occupied by an interesting group, on the occasion of a funeral ceremony for the repose of the soul of the Emperor Nicholas. Count Orloff and Baron Brunow attended, together with the Ambassadors of Austria, Prussia, and the Ministers of some of the smaller German States. The Princess Matilde was also present. Madame Seebach appeared to act as mistress of the ceremonies, receiving at the door the lady visitors. All the Russian diplomatic ladies were present. The gentlemen were in full uniform—M. Seebach wearing the grand cordon of the Legion of Honour.

IMPERIAL EPISTLES ABOUT THE PEACE.—In the letter which the Czar has written to the Emperor of the French, and which evinces the greatest moderation, the following passage is said to occur:—"Without repudiating the policy of my father, I wish to prove by my moderation that I desire to give peace to Europe, and you may rely, Sire, that I will, in order to attain that object, make every sacrifice compatible with the honour of Russia." It is added that the Emperor Napoleon has replied that he entertained the same sentiments; that he also wishes to prove to Europe that he would not follow the warlike policy of his uncle; that his programme had not changed, and that he would not depart from the greatest moderation, because "l'Empire, c'était toujours la paix."





A FLAG OF TRUCE OFF SEBASTOPOL—MEETING BETWEEN A RUSSIAN OFFICER AND HIS SON.

#### A FLAG OF TRUCE OFF SEBASTOPOL—MEETING OF A RUSSIAN OFFICER AND HIS SON.

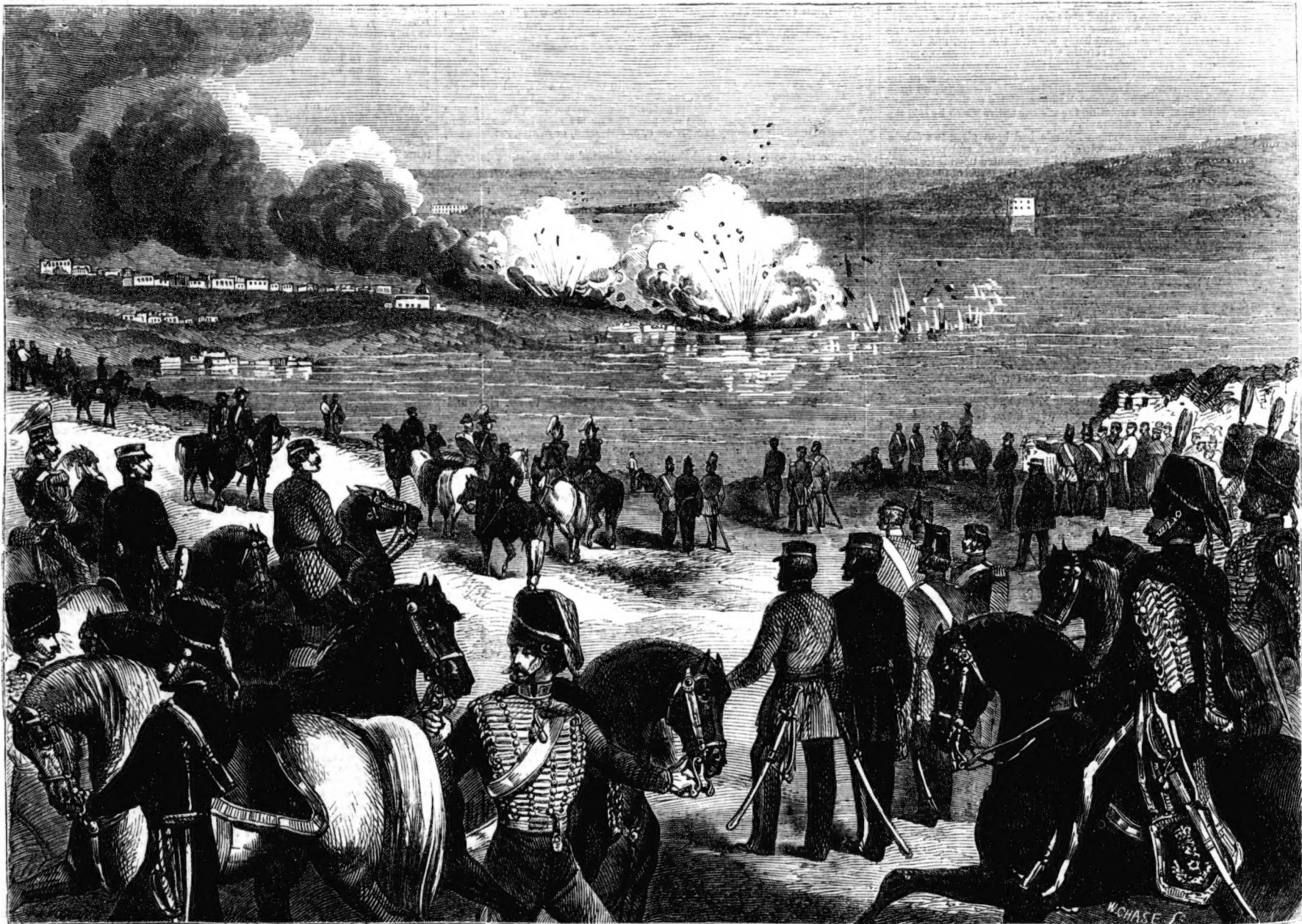
ONE of the most interesting of the recent events connected with the Crimean war, is the following account, supplied by the "Times" correspondent. In his letter of the 25th of January, the writer says:—"A flag of truce went across in a boat a few days ago, to give up a Greek colonel in the Russian service, named Mento, who commanded a battalion at Balaklava when the Allies arrived in the Crimea, and has been a prisoner ever since. He is a man of advanced age, and it was resolved to let him rejoin his family, which was sent over to the Russian lines some time

ago. On the occasion of his liberation, a touching incident occurred. Conversing with the English officers who accompanied him, the old Colonel expressed his hope that he should find the greater part of his family alive and well, though he had heard from them but once since their separation. His son, he said, he had no expectation of seeing again. He was a naval officer serving in Sebastopol during the siege, and he knew too well how dreadfully the Russian navy had suffered to cherish a hope that his child had been spared. The British flag of truce approached the shore, and was met by a Russian boat, when those with whom the Colonel had just been conversing were surprised and affected, to see him clasped in the arms of

the lieutenant commanding. The son already mourned as dead had been sent, either accidentally, or, more probably, from delicate kindness on the part of our brave antagonists, to receive his father from captivity."

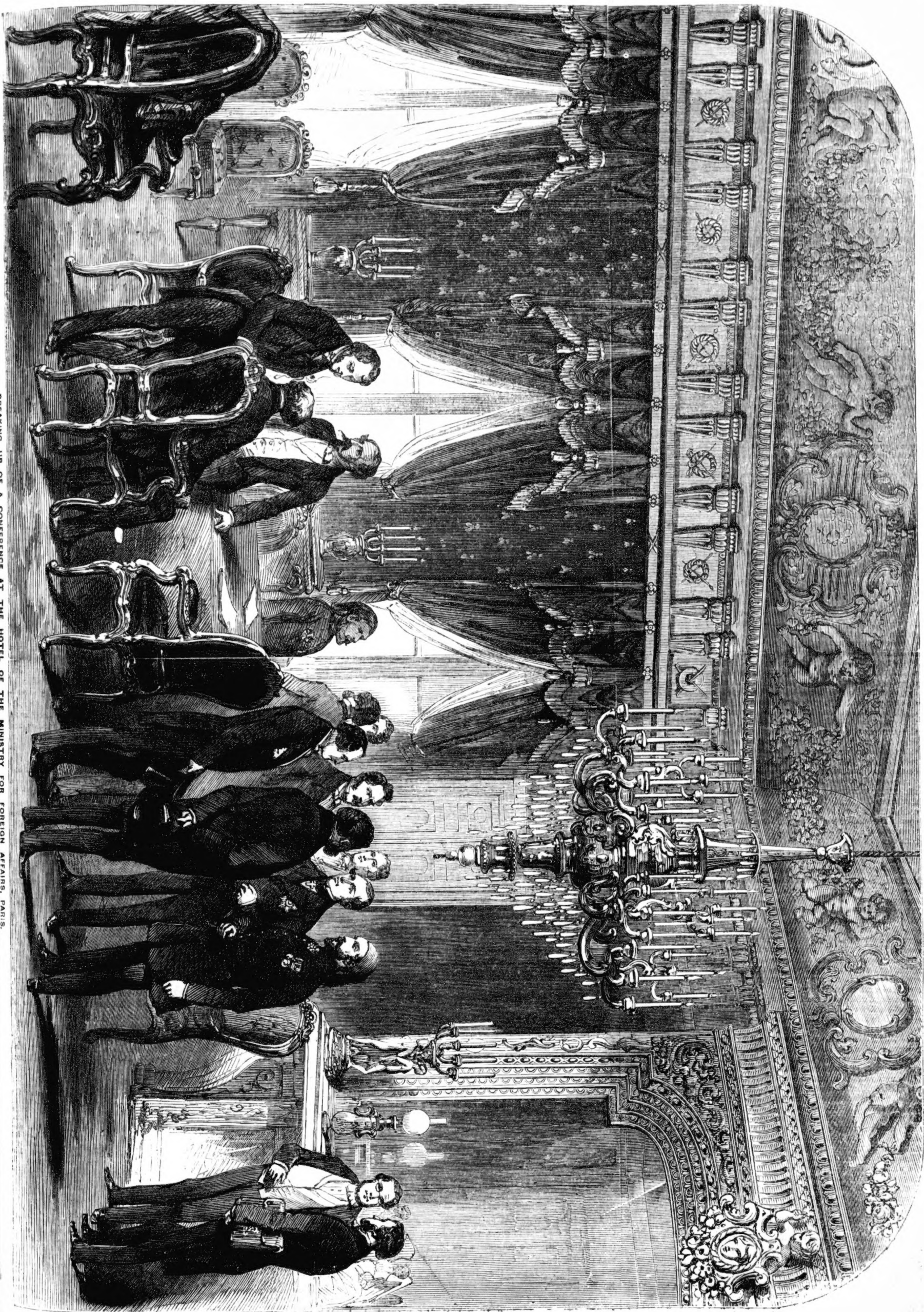
#### THE DESTRUCTION OF FORT NICHOLAS.

FORT NICHOLAS was, until the 4th ult., when its demolition was effected, situated on the eastern side of Sebastopol town, on a low promontory, surrounded by a dangerous reef of rocks. It was a battery of 192 guns, in three tiers defending not only the front of the town but one side of



THE DESTRUCTION OF FORT NICHOLAS, SEBASTOPOL.—(FROM A SKETCH BY LIEUT. HARVEY, 77TH REGIMENT.)





BREAKING UP OF A CONFERENCE AT THE HOTEL OF THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, PARIS.



the entrance into the military harbour, which runs nearly two miles to the south. This fort was one of the most conspicuous objects presenting itself to view in approaching Sebastopol, both from its peculiar form and the long extent of ground which it covered, and was, perhaps, the most celebrated of the fortifications in the Russian territory on the Black Sea, excepting Fort Constantine. This latter fort, though by no means of the same magnitude, has become famous on account of the celebrated bombardment to which it was subjected in 1854 by the allied fleet, and has the reputation of having been more solidly constructed. Fort Nicholas, however, the destruction of which the accompanying engraving depicts, commanded the entrance to the roadstead, and swept with its guns the whole surface of the water from thence to the South Harbour itself. Looking towards the sea, it exhibited a plain stone front, with two lines of embrasures at regular intervals, one above the other; the monotonous appearance of the long lines being broken only by a central projection and observatory above. To the east of the central projection the guns were in three tiers, the uppermost tier being on the roof; but in the western half, that nearest to Artillery Bay, there were only two tiers, and none on the roof. Seen in reverse, the appearance was that of two long galleries, one above the other, the side towards the spectator being built so as to show a succession of arched openings, with balustrades. These arches corresponded with the bomb-proof casemates, each of which was prepared to receive one gun. Its general form was that of a horseshoe, the east end being the most curved, and the part of the plain solid masonry of the front which was thus brought into view near the opening of the South Harbour, formed a striking contrast, to the view of a person looking from the heights above the town, with the light and elegant series of arcades which characterised the remainder of the structure. It was always one of the first buildings which was noticed by a stranger going towards Sebastopol by the Woronzow road, and one reason of this was, besides those already named, that it bounded the view of the town, for a considerable space towards the sea. Its outline was thus strongly marked by the surface of water beyond. On account of its strength and distance from the approaches, the women and children who remained in Sebastopol at the commencement of the siege were removed to this fort for protection. Subsequently it was for some months the residence of General Osten-Sacken, General Todleben, and other officers of distinction. There were always many troops here, it being one of the places where reserves were kept, in case of emergency. There were also here a temporary church, hospitals, apartments for the Sisters of Mercy, and numerous offices. For some time a market was held on the narrow strip of shore between Fort Nicholas and the bay, the sellers coming over by boats from the north side. The stalls and booths could be seen plainly from our ships stationed to watch the harbour.

On the morning of the day when the destruction of the fort was to take place, great numbers of both Sardinian and French officers were seen marching along the Woronzow road. This concourse, together with General Codrington passing by with his staff, attracted attention among the camps in front; and the excitement was increased as the French Marshal drove by in the usual low phaeton drawn by four grays, with soldiers in uniform, *en postillon*, and accompanied by an escort of cavalry. Two French officers, and Colonel the Hon. G. Foley, attached to Marshal Pelissier's staff, were with him. In a short time, the top of Frenchman's Hill, and the high ground at Catheart's Hill and near the Victoria Redoubt, were occupied by large groups of British officers and soldiers. Lines of men were also seen making their way by the old site of the Kamshatka Redoubt, and towards the earthworks on the Malakhoff Hill. General Codrington passed on to the town; Marshal Pelissier took up his station at the well-known spot on Frenchman's Hill which was used during the progress of the siege as an observatory, and which was generally spoken of as the "look-out near the picket-house." This point had the advantage not only of a good view of the town and Fort Nicholas, but also embraced a comprehensive panoramic view of the fortifications along the north side of the roadstead. A vast number of French and English officers assembled at this spot.

The day was unusually fine for seeing such a spectacle. The air was so brilliantly clear that every outline was sharply defined of the buildings in the town, and every fort and earthwork on the north side was plainly visible. The water of the roadstead was as smooth and calm as a lake. The topmasts of the sunken ships, and in some instances the yards and cordage, stood out from the water without the slightest evidence of movement, or causing the least ripple of the surface. The sea outside seemed equally smooth; its uniform dark blue colour being broken only by a white line where the waves were breaking on the shoals beyond Fort Constantine. There was scarcely any breeze, but what little there was came from the north. The Russians were evidently in complete uncertainty respecting what was about to happen on the south side. They directed all their fire toward the dockyard, not knowing, perhaps, that the destruction of the docks had been completed, and thinking that some operations were in progress in their neighbourhood. This fire was going on, and serving to distract a little the attention of the spectators, who were now assembled in great numbers, when a sudden exclamation among the crowds drew all eyes toward Fort Nicholas. The gaze of the enemy was equally fascinated towards the same direction, and all firing from their batteries ceased. From the west extremity of the long fort, partly concealed from our view by other buildings, was slowly rising and swelling a huge dense cloud of smoke, which as it rose and spread enveloped all the neighbourhood in a thick fog. At the same time came a slight sensation of trembling of the ground, and a dull rumbling sound, like a distant clap of thunder. It was not loud, and there was no echo. While watching this scene, the massive-looking east end, where it turned round toward the south harbour, and the arched galleries for some distance toward the centre—a very conspicuous as the sun was lighting up the white stone of which they were built, and without anything to intercept a full view of their structure—appeared suddenly to be split and rent asunder, and as the walls fell and dissolved away, great blasts of smoke and dust rose out of the ground and stood in their stead. It was a most exciting sight to witness such destruction accomplished, noiselessly, as it seemed at a distance, and as if by magic, for there was no visible human agency, in the midst of a bright still atmosphere, and therefore without any of the usual concomitant circumstances of a natural convulsion.

The cloud which rose from this end of the building was very dark—almost black in the centre. It rolled and dilated over the ground from whence it had issued, but ascended very gradually. A thick sprinkling of white spots in the water of the roadstead showed that fragments of stone were falling there; and as they continued for many seconds after the explosion, some of them had evidently been projected to a great height. Nearly five minutes must have elapsed after this second discharge, the great canopies of smoke were bending over towards the town, the spectators were remarking that only the two ends of the fort had been blown up, when another explosion took place on the west side, and was succeeded, almost immediately afterwards, by a fourth, at what remained of the east end. The two reports from these explosions seemed louder than the reports which had followed the two former blasts. Still a part of the fort remained upright, and between the dark folds of drapery which shrouded the wide spaces left vacant by the fall of the two wings might still be seen, though mistily, the high central tower and observatory. These did not exist long. A fifth and then a sixth mine was sprung, and the whole of the gigantic work, which, not long ago, stood offering defiance to the navies of the whole world, was levelled to the ground. The clouds of smoke cleared away slowly, and driven gently by the breeze from the north, passed over the ruins of the town, for a time enveloping it in fog and throwing it into dark shadow. The removal of the accustomed outline, and the long gap which was left by the destruction of the fort, was then seen to have changed in its most striking feature the aspect of the whole town of Sebastopol, and to have left it more wrecked in appearance than ever.

General Sir W. Codrington, in his despatch to Lord Panmure, with more than usual military picturesqueness, describes the scene of destruction in the following words:—

"On our (the south) side, we looked down on the large ruined barracks in front, on the inner creek of the dockyard, the quay, and the remains of Fort Paul, the spacious inlet from the harbour on our left, beyond which stand the outlying buildings of Sebastopol itself. There, also, is the well-remembered long

line of pointed arches, the casemates of the interior of Fort Nicholas, of which the embrasures in double tier pointed to seaward and away from us.

"It juts out into the harbour, built on an inner tongue of land; Fort Constantine forming a similar but more outward defence for the sea approach on the north."

"The scene and feeling of expectation were of great interest, for another tangible proof of power and success was to take place, and 106,000lbs. of powder were in the several mines."

"At the hour named, a burst of smoke, dark and thick, rolled from our left of the building; it was followed by another; the heavy sound arrived, the stones were shot into the air and to the sea; the explosions of the extreme right and the centre mingled at little intervals into one drifting cloud, which veiled the destruction below."

"The light of the sun played beautifully on the mass of smoke, of which the lower part lay long and heavily on its victim. The breeze passing it away over the remains of the town, showed that a low line of ruin was all that remained of the pride of Fort Nicholas, and one standing menace of the harbour lay buried under its waters."

## THE PEACE CONFERENCES.

### SIGNATURE OF THE PRELIMINARIES.

As was agreed upon at Vienna, the Four Points of the Austrian Proposals were signed by the Plenipotentiaries, at Paris, on Saturday last, and the document thus signed is to serve as a Preliminary Treaty in the negotiations now in progress. This proceeding, however important and satisfactory, leaves unsettled many questions which will necessarily be the subject of immediate discussion, with a view to the framing of a definitive Treaty.

[In our Parliamentary report of the proceedings in the House of Commons on Monday last, will be found Lord Palmerston's account of the transaction above referred to.]

The Conference did not hold a sitting on Monday, in consequence of the opening of the Legislature.

### APPROVAL BY THE CZAR OF THE SIGNATURE OF THE PRELIMINARIES.

The following despatch, dated Berlin, March 4, notifies the Czar's approval of the signature of the preliminaries of peace at Paris:—

"On the receipt of a message from Count Orloff, that preliminaries of peace had been signed, a declaration of approval was this day transmitted, through the telegraph, by the Czar."

The Russian Ambassador at the Court of Berlin has been informed of this circumstance."

The Paris correspondent of "Le Nord" writes:—

"A friend, who has never given me incorrect information, and who is in this case, I believe, well informed, states that the Russian Plenipotentiaries have accepted the propositions relative to the non-reconstruction of the fortifications of Bomarsund, and the engagements which guarantee that Nicolaeff will not interfere with the neutralisation of the Black Sea; while on the other side, the concessions presented by Count Orloff and Baron de Brunow, relative to the rectification of the frontiers in Bessarabia and Asia Minor, have been favourably received."

The Plenipotentiaries sit three hours at a time, and at the end of each hour avail themselves of a certain buffet, liberally furnished with cakes, sandwiches, wines, and cigars. Some take a turn in the garden, and jot down notes. The sale in which the deliberations take place is contiguous to Count Walewski's cabinet, in which is a telegraphic wire communicating with the Tuileries. During the pauses in the Conference, M. Benedetti passes notes to the employé entrusted with the electric transmission to the Imperial Court. The Emperor is thus informed, from hour to hour, of all that transpires.

### THE SALON DES AMBASSADEURS.

The room where the diplomatists accredited to the Peace Conference at Paris meet, namely the Salon des Ambassadeurs, is separated from the Minister's cabinet by another fine room, called the Salon des Attachés de Service. The Salon des Ambassadeurs receives its light from three large windows opening to the north, and looking towards the Seine. The curtains and furniture of the room are of crimson satin, with a rich Aubusson carpet on the floor, and the ceiling is richly painted. Between the windows are tables, one for the two gentlemen who are to act as secretaries, and the other for the use of any of the Plenipotentiaries who may wish to write in private. The table of the secretaries can when necessary be moved close to the round table in the centre. On the latter, which was ordered expressly for the Conference, is a remarkable inkstand, made expressly for the first Napoleon, and of which we shall give an engraving next week.

"The table," writes our correspondent, "is surrounded with fauteuils of gold frame-work, and crimson satin seats and backs. The room itself is white and gold; the walls are flowered crimson satin; above the cornice, running round the ceiling, are cupids supporting garlands of flowers, interspersed with medallions containing bouquets; besides other rich ornaments, this portion is most exquisitely painted. Beyond is another beautiful cornice picked out in white and gold, and the ceiling itself is painted to resemble light, fleecy clouds. From the centre falls the chandelier, one mass of crystal and gold."

"Surmounting each of the four doors are ovals, containing allegorical paintings of the arts, history, science and music. It would be wrong to pass over the two looking glasses without mentioning them; they are possibly, with their framework, the most perfect specimens to be seen. The one shown in my sketch will give some idea of the richness of the ornamentation, which is white, picked out with silver and gold. The individual ornaments, such as vases, candelabras, &c., are in the most recherché taste. There are also portraits of the Emperor and Empress, by Winterhalter, and a bust of Napoleon the First. The windows covered with white muslin, and partially screened by the massive crimson hangings, throw a subdued light over this most costly of rooms, and make endurable to the eye, that which, from its brilliancy, would become too dazzling. The carpet is a dark chocolate ground, with amber flowers. I was assured by M. de Billing, chef de cabinet to the minister, that there was nothing in France to equal this room, and that the members of the Conference themselves allowed it to be unrivalled in Europe."

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### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A correspondent informs us, that in the article on "Life Peerages," in a former number, we erred in attributing the dubbing of the joint of beef to Charles the Second; according to tradition, James the First was the monarch who knighted the loin.

## ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 1856.

### HOME TOPICS.

As it is impossible that anything definite can be known about the Conferences for days to come, we are driven by force to subjects of inferior interest. We can guess as to Paris proceedings; we can say that the EMPEROR's speech looks peaceful and promising; but we can know nothing. Let us, then, turn to some home topics—topics of English interest.

The annexation of Oude is one of these—since Oude now becomes, for purposes of government, as much English as Cumberland, Few

people trouble themselves about Indian affairs, except on such great occasions as an annexation. And then the interest is set about by Manchester politicians, who have a certain stock-in-trade of objections against all such measures—who are self-constituted protectors of Kaffirs, Japanese, Java pirates, &c.—whenever they can do their own Government a mischief by such philanthropy.

There is a certain amount of philanthropic cant always about in England, and we shall have plenty of it, *à propos* of Oude, for a week or two. Now, we support the annexation of that State in spite of its antiquity—because there is something more ancient than any State, viz., the right of the superior State to command the inferior one. By that right the Romans "annexed" Gaul and Spain, and though they did it by force, yet we now see that "might" was "right" (as it often becomes, in the long run), for the said Roman control paved the way for the Christianising those countries—for the languages they still speak—for something of their institutions, and much of their civilisation. But we have a better plea in the case of Oude than the excellent one that we are fitter to have Oude than its own dynasty. It has become inevitable, from our position in India, that we should take this step. Oude is ripe. And we confess we can get up no sentimental interest in its Sovereigns—bloated, greasy nabobs, given up to gluttony, and fond of unfoons. If the back cannot be objected, that Russia has an equal right to take Turkey, we answer, "No—because she can't,"—if she could, it would be a signal that the time was come for her to be more extended than at present—which time is not come while other nations have pluck enough, honour enough, and brains enough, to keep her within bounds. As long as Providence means a nation to be worthy of existing, it has the strength to maintain its existence—only men won't look *fact* in the face, and will get up sentimental theorising instead. We are obliged to the GOVERNOR-GENERAL for having the vigour to act on his convictions. He has shown himself a man of parts and courage through life—and we shall be glad of his return home to free action here—that England may hail him, in the words of Allan Ramsay to one of his ancestors, as—

—Dalhousie of an old descent,  
My stoup, my pride, my ornament.

The discussion on military subjects of one kind or other, which proceeds so briskly, is significant and important. The WILLIAMSES are no good successors to the HUMES, and thousands are voted away almost before Mr. F. PEEL—that arid young talker—can get out his defence of them. The case, we think, is, that people are heartily ashamed of their old parsimony in military matters, and anxious to make up for it. At least, we hope it is so; for, without attention to these affairs, we shall disgrace ourselves every war we enter into; and as for the men who say there will be no more wars, we would neither lend our ears to their reasoning nor trust our safety to their courage. A feature worthy of notice in the Army Estimates debate early this week was Sir CHARLES NAPIER's speech about the honours of "C.B." and "K.C.B." These distinctions are jobbed, like peerages and places, by Ministers, and the Crown has as little to do with them as with anything else. They are fast becoming empty distinctions, like other symbols one sees about, of which everybody forgets the origin and neglects the import. There is one successful quality in our times besides money—servility; and the want of it keeps adventurous officers back, as it puts so many law lords forward.

The army-purchase question has this peculiarity—that, if we meddle with it, we must be prepared to go through a great deal more work than we suppose. It is not only a money question, but a great social and military one, involving the entire future constitution of the army. We are going to discuss it *in extenso* before long. But, meanwhile, we must again express our faith in the "examination system"—in the use of making that a part, at least, of any new adjustment of affairs. It would be impossible to change things wholesale, or to keep out a class of officers who take the profession as an amusement, who are unfitted by nature for intellectual pursuits, and whose forte is an occasional dashing exploit. We must have them; and they must have their luxuries and amusements. But surely it is possible to introduce encouragement for those men who have less money, and who wish to know more of their work. Cannot one system be grafted on the other? At present the army is scarcely a school, except in the way of manners. ROCHEFOUCAULD said, long ago, that in the army men lost *l'air bourgeois*, but it is scarcely praise enough for a profession that it takes young FITZ-GOLDNER and makes him more presentable than his grandsire. Joking apart, it is painfully clear that British officers are not a highly cultivated class—and with two great cavalry gentlemen being inquired into for the loss of their cavalry, it is high time that we knew why.

Our readers will have seen the "Eastern Counties" revolutions, and will be trying no doubt to avoid going to Yarmouth. There we have a revelation of the reckless spirit of speculation—and who knows what catastrophe we may soon have to class with the suicide of SADLER and the failure of PAUL?

Government is as weak as any government can be with a PALMERSTON at its head, and a popular anti-Russian resolution at its back. Whether we have war or peace, Parliament is likely to be dissolved, and a new Ministry probable: the newer the better, considering the staple composition of the present one, and the dubious condition of certain once high reputations. There are no elections, meanwhile, of any significance going forward—none but in a stray borough here and there—exposed to the stupid old influences of ignorance and clap-trap—such as have long supplied us, now and then, with an unlettered and ludicrous senator. But we should not despise such men from a too haughty valuation of the power of reading or spelling. They are inevitable in a free and commercial country—possibly even useful, as a kind of pig-ballast in the vessel of the Constitution!

VISIT OF THE KING OF THE BELGIANS.—Her Majesty will entertain the King of the Belgians, during his Majesty's stay in England, at Windsor Castle. The King, it is expected, will land in this country on the 17th inst., at which time the Court will arrive at Windsor from Buckingham Palace for the Easter vacation. Shortly after his Majesty's arrival, the Princess Royal will be confirmed in the Chapel Royal of St. George's. Apartments have been prepared for his Majesty on the south side of the Castle. It is said that, during the King's sojourn in this country, a grand naval review will take place at Spithead. The King of the Belgians will remain at the Castle until Monday, the 24th inst. It is rumoured that Claremont will hereafter become one of the royal residences attached to this Court.

### BIRTHPLACE OF GENERAL WILLIAMS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "ILLUSTRATED TIMES."

SIR,—As one of the many constant readers of the "Illustrated Times" in this part of the world, I wish you to correct an error in that paper of the 12th of December. You there state that General Williams is a native of the Isle of Thanet, which is not the case, as he was born in the province of Nova Scotia, where he has two sisters still living, besides one residing in this city. He has many warm friends and admirers in this country, where he was on a visit to his relatives a month or two before the war commenced, and within this last week his friends here have received letters from him dated "Gumri," where you are aware he is a prisoner in the hands of the Russians. He speaks of being treated very kindly by the Russian officers, who vied with one another in paying him marks of attention and kindness.—Yours respectfully,  
ST. JOHN, New Brunswick, Feb. 11, 1856.

ALMA.



## SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

QUEEN has presented to the London Orphan Asylum, Clapton three as to purchase for the Prince of Wales the right to keep one child in the asylum during the life of her Royal Highness.

PRINCESS JOACHIM MUKAT, nee Princess de Wagram, was last week married to a son, at the Chateau de Gros Bores, near Paris.

ONE OF THE BRITISH VISITS this country, it is said, in order to be able to inform of the Prince as Royal, his goddaughter.

ROYAL has received orders to raise a fourth regiment of Italian re- established the office for enrolment at St. Paul, at the foot of Mount St. Paul, from Sister and Savoy.

THE WILL, it is believed, succeeded Sir Henry Ellis as principal libra- rian of the British Museum.

AND MADAME GOLDSCHMIDT LIND's grand miscellaneous concert for aid of the Nightingale Fund, will take place on Tuesday, the 11th.

MR. RICHARD PETERSON MILNES, of Fryston Hall, will shortly, according to report, be created a peer.

MR. OBER, it is said, intends to lay claim, before the Paris Congress, to the title of a belonging of right to Sweden.

MR. WISEMAN is to lecture to the Marylebone Institution, on the 23rd, on the subject—The Influence of Words on Thought and on Character.

MISS FREDERICA BREMER, acknowledged in the Swedish newspapers, the gift of 12,000 thalers, destined for the establishment of an asylum for old and infirm persons, sent to her by a lady who wishes to remain unknown.

ALEXANDRE DUMAS is frequently present, with all his decorations, at the now being given in Paris in honour of the Plenipotentiaries.

MR. JESSOP AYTON last week read the "Merchant of Venice" to a large and respectable audience, at Clulster Hall, Edinburgh.

A HILLY RESPECTABLE FIRM in the iron trade at Manchester, is said to be endeavouring to the extent of £25,000 by the forgery and frauds of Mr. Sadler.

STUDENTS OF MARISCHAL COLLEGE and UNIVERSITY, Aberdeen, have elected Mr. Lyard, Lord Rector for the current year.

THE SUPERIOR OF THE FRENCH has pardoned five of the students who were sentenced to imprisonment for the disturbances at the Sorbonne.

MR. LINDSAY, M.P., has landed over to the Glasgow Night Asylum for the House, £105, paid to him to stay proceedings in an action raised for non-fulfilment of a promise.

PAHA, the Turkish Plenipotentiary, is said to express openly his sympathy with the cause of the Poles and Hungarians.

MR. MACHESON POWELL, of LONDON, assembled nearly four hundred men, employed in her collieries on Clifton Moor, on Saturday last, and then with a liberal feast, and delivered an address expressive of the interest taken by her in their welfare.

THE EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA, "desiring to recognize the services which Baron de Belschlag has rendered to the State," has conferred upon him the decoration of the Second Class of the Iron Cross.

PYROMETER SICK, to the number of 1,500, have been brought to the hospital at Constantinople.

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON has been elected President of the Royal Humane Society, in the room of the late Duke of Norfolk.

THE PLENIPOTENTIARIES are said to find amusement in the suit of clothes, of a singular colour, worn by M. de Bologniet, at the Conference, in London, at the Congress of Vienna.

ADMIRAL SIR T. PASLEY, received an enthusiastic reception, last week, at London, on his return home from the scene of his duties with the Black Sea Fleet.

MR. WILKINSON has just reported, in regard to the Eastern Counties Railway, the safety of the bridges on the line, between Norwich, Yarmouth, and London, in an unimpaired state of decay, and the repairs are only calculated to make the structures temporarily safe.

GENERAL SMITH has resumed the command of the Bashi-Bazouks at Shumli.

MR. GUNTER has commissioned M. Dabuf, a pupil of Delacroix, to execute a picture of the Peace Conference.

MR. DE BERRY entertained a large party of his political supporters, at the House of Commons, on Saturday evening, at his mansion in Grosvenor Square.

GRAND DUKE OF MECKLENBURG-SCHWERIN has notified to the Emperor the death of his son, Prince Nicholas Alexander, Duke of Mecklenburg.

ORDERS HAVE BEEN sent to Marseilles, to prepare shipping to convey 10,000 Infantry and a battery of Artillery to the Crimea, to replace the troops that have been sent home.

MR. WILIAM GOMM has taken a final leave of the Bengal army, at the conclusion of a five years' administration.

THE PENSION of £25 per annum, which was granted to the late Joseph Haydn, previously to his death, has been bestowed upon his unfortunate widow.

LIEUTENANT BLOXHAM, of her Majesty's ship *Sphinx*, has been tried at Malta, for leaving his ship while under arrest, and dismissed the service.

MR. J. OWAY CUFFE, of Milsent House, Bucks, a nephew of Lord Harcourt, has left the Church of England for the Church of Rome, and has been "entrained" by the Bishop of Birmingham.

MR. DE LACY EVANS, on resuming his seat after his speech on the Crimean War, received the special congratulations of Sir E. B. Lytton.

CAPTAIN HAMILTON, of the Grenadier Guards, who carried the colours of his regiment at the Alma, and was in the actions of Inkermann and Balaklava, is about to form a matrimonial alliance with a daughter of Major Palmer, of Nazareth Park, Essex.

DARBY CASTLE, in the county of Monaghan, the residence of Lord Cremorne, erected about 10 years since, and considered one of the finest buildings in the North of Ireland, has this week been destroyed by fire.

MR. MONTGOMERIE BELL has been elected Professor of Conveyancing in the University of Edinburgh, in room of the late Professor Menzies.

THE ANNUAL EXHIBITION of modern French artists, which was to have been held in the new Louvre this year, will not take place there, the building not being considered sufficiently dry.

THE OWNERS of the United States Mail Steamers have notified that the vessels of this line, to avoid the dangers from ice, will not cross the Banks north of 13 degrees, until after the 1st of August next.

THE PEOPLE OF OSWESTRY have presented Private Gardiner, of the Scots Greys, with an artificial leg, in place of that which he lost in the charge at Balaclava.

COUNT ORLOFF and BARON BAYROW were present, last week, at a dinner given by the Princess Mathilde, at her residence in the Rue de Courcelles; and Generals Canrobert and Bosquet were placed right opposite to them.

THE TRIAL OF THE MEN charged with the murder of Miss Hinds, in Cavan, has been postponed; copies of the informations not having been furnished in time.

MR. G. V. BROOKE and MISS CATHERINE HAYES are at Melbourne, attracting large audiences—Mr. Brooke having already performed 117 nights in Melbourne, and 29 in Sydney.

MESSRS CHANCE BROTHERS have presented the whole of the expensive glass required for the roof of the New Queen's College Museums, Birmingham.

THE CHOLERA appears to be manifesting itself in many districts around Lisbon.

MR. BRIGHT, M.P., in accordance with the advice of medical men, is to give up his usual business for three months, and to spend the time in seeking relief in a continental journey.

THE RUSSIANS are sending troops to Finland, concentrating a force round St. Petersburg, and strengthening the barriers round Cronstadt, so as to close up the entrance.

SIR R. MURCHISON will preside at the anniversary festival of the Printers' Pension Society, at the London Tavern, on the 22nd of April.

AT PORTSMOUTH, it is rumoured that a review and mock engagement of the gun-boat flotilla, is likely shortly to take place in the presence of her Majesty.

PRINCE ARK, is said to have proposed to the maritime States to abolish the Slave Trade, for an indemnification of 55 millions of six-dollars (about £4,000,000).

KASA, brother-in-law of one of the petty kings of Abyssinia, after dethroning his relative, has assumed the Imperial Crown, under the name of Theodore I.

MR. DE FONTON, in case of peace being concluded, will go to Constantinople as the Russian Ambassador.

A REQUESTION for horses to be ready in the month of April, has been made by Russia, on the landed proprietors of Poland.

BARON has been the scene of a terrible explosion of fire-damp, by which three men, named Evans, Thomas, and Williams, were unhappily killed, the occurrence taking place at the Ysgborwen Colliery, in consequence of going in with a naked candle.

RIZO RANGABE and SEALISTRES, the New Ministers selected by King Otho, of Greece, have the character of being favourable to the Western Powers.

THE COUNTESS DE PERSIGNY had a brilliant assembly on Tuesday evening, at the residence of the French Embassy, Albert Gate House.

## THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

It is some time since the "vapid" and "inane," the "mooners" in society and the "quidnuncs" of club drawing-rooms, have had so good an opportunity for feeble speculations and the diffusion of ridiculous rumours, as is afforded them by the sitting of the present Conference at Paris. During the whole of last Saturday and Sunday, these pestilential gaddies were in full buzz—a strong dissension among the Plenipotentiaries, Russia's refusal to consent to the reduction of Nicolai, and determination to refer the consideration of the "fifth point" to a congress composed of all the Sovereigns of Europe, the suspension of the Conference, and the return of Lord Cowley for instructions. These were the rumours circulated freely throughout the west end of the town. Then the morning papers, which, in default of reliable news, always cram their columns with most unreliable gossip, had a strange account of the English and Russian envoys meeting face to face by accident at Princess Mathilde's soirée, and "sneering at each other in a haughty manner." This, of course, is the merest rubbish, and taking Lord Palmerston's guarded statement of Monday night, as to the signing of some preliminary treaty for peace, we must suppose that all is going well, for "supposing" is all we can do in our present uninformed state.

The increase of crime still continues to a fearful extent. A gentleman living at Staines, and having a railway season ticket for the year 1854, alters the figures to 1856, and uses it daily. One day he alights at a station where he is not known, is asked for his ticket, the fraud is perceived, and the wretched man commits suicide before the day appointed for the investigation of the affair. A director of the Royal Swedish Railway is also stated to have cut his throat during the past week, having been ruined by the defalcation of Mr. John Sadler. More than this—a servant girl at a house in the Walworth-road is in the habit of meeting "a young man" on Sunday, when the family is out; during her absence last Sunday the house was ransacked, finding it in which state on her return, she took up a knife and cut her throat. She is alive, and such is now her story, though, when first discovered, she declared that the wound had been inflicted by the robbers while she was resisting them. In addition, a new trade is being carried on between Cork and Liverpool, for the improvement of English constitutions. "Sulphate of barytes," a white, heavy, impalpable powder, admirably adapted for the adulteration of flour, is being imported in large quantities, and being very cheap and particularly deleterious, is largely purchased by the millers and bakers. A scene-painter at the Surrey Theatre has tried to murder a carpenter; a young man at Arlingford, who "could not agree with his half-sister," has set fire to his father's wheatstacks; and a young man "of an habitually savage disposition," stabs a woman in several places, bites and kicks ferociously two policemen, and requires six constables to remove him to his cell. So three cheers for the nineteenth century, and the age of enlightenment!

Messrs. Foster and Son have been good enough to supply me with the account of the prices realised by the pictures disposed of at their sale on the 27th and 28th of last month, and a description of which I sent you a fortnight ago. Of those pictures, engravings of which you published, the following were the prices:—Cattermole's "Venice," £52 10s.; Maclellan's "Fille mal gardée," (a small but highly finished drawing) £43 1s.; Poole's "Village Girl and Child at a spring," £43; Turner's "Calais Lighthouse," £57 15s. Of the oil paintings, Linnell's "Gillingham," fetched £546; Sidney Cooper's "Canterbury on the Stour," £194 5s.; Herbert's "Sir Thomas More and his Daughter," £168; J. T. Linnell's "Firs and Furze," £115 10s.; Stanfield's "Como," £232; Sant's "Dark Eyes," £107 2s.; and Luty's "Golden Age," was bought in for £850 10s. Of other celebrated pictures sold on the occasion, Hunt's "Cricketer" went for £85 1s., and the "Cold Morning" for £51 9s.; Linnell's "Windmill," £546; Turner's "Approach to Venice," £882; Herring's "Homestead," £231; Frith's "Bourgeois Gentilhomme," £493 10s.; while the water-colour sketches of David Cox, Copley Fielding, Jenkins, De Wint, &c., fetched equally high prices.

You have doubtless heard of the *conversaciones* of the Graphic Society. I was lately at a meeting called the "Artists' and Amateurs' Conversation," which had this advantage over the Graphic, that it was graced by the presence of a great many ladies. The *reunion* was held at Willis's Rooms, and was excellently attended. There were portfolios and sketches contributed by various collectors, and comprising specimens of Messrs. Hunt, David Cox, Leitch, Duncan, Jenkins, Rowbotham, Horsley, H. Johnson, Fenn, &c. There were also two portfolios of very spirited sketches made by Mr. F. Dillon during his recent visit to the Holy Land, a curious bit of architectural drawing by Ruskin, a fine old man's head by Eddy, and a capital allegorical design, "The Spirit of Justice," by John Tenniel. To the lovers of art, these will prove very pleasant meetings. The next is held on Thursday, the 13th, and the admission is by ticket, procured from a member of the committee.

## THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.—THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S ANNUAL.

THE two articles which will be most generally read in this month's "Blackwood," are entitled "Biography gone Mad," and "Sydney Smith." The first of these is written in that spirit of quiet, telling sarcasm, which has lately distinguished the reviews of *Maga*. Every line has its weight, every slashing stroke falls quietly into its proper place, and the victim receives his due amount of castigation without our feeling that pity for him, or disgust at his assailant, which the employment of gross personality invariably evokes. The article under notice treats of the biographies of Messrs. Horace Greeley and James Gordon Bennett, two American journalists, and the Editors respectively of the "New York Tribune" and the "New York Herald." From the extracts given, it is almost impossible to imagine how two such volumes of idiotic impudence and offensive adulation can have been published; and it is equally astonishing to think that two men of the calibre of mind described by their biographers, can have risen to very responsible positions in the American literary world. Base pusillanimity, thorough disregard for the feelings of others, a bold contempt for the truth, and an inordinate vanity, seem to be among the principal requisites for the editor of a leading journal in the Yankee press. The article on "Sydney Smith," is one of the very best of the many that have lately appeared on the subject; and the writer calls attention to the fact, which all other critics and commentators seem to have passed by, that Sydney's powers lay more in *fun* than in *wit*—in real, nonsensical, whimsical fun, given in a genial, merry voice, and causing at once a burst of mirth among the listeners. In glancing at his graver qualities, the reviewer does honour to him as a perfect type of an upright and open-hearted Englishman—"A man honest, courageous, and truthful—struggling bravely through the ordinary trials of every-day existence—bearing poverty and neglect, bearing flattery and favour; coming forth unharmed through more than one fiery ordeal, and with the lightest hand and the kindest temper, skilled in that art of ruling himself which is greater than taking a city." Other articles in "Blackwood" are an elaborate review of Dr. Liddell's "History of Rome," praised as a useful, practical book, but deficient in the poetic and philosophic spirit requisite in the historian; a quaint and interesting description of Monteli, a French writer who has obtained a posthumous fame as the author of the "Histoire des Français des divers Etats," and two ferocious onslaughts on the Government with reference to the "Yeerages for Life" question—one by an English lawyer (of course, not Warren, M.P.), the other by a Scotch advocate.

A curious article is the opening one in "Fraser," entitled "Tristram Shandy or The Caxtons?" It enters upon a comparison of the merits of the two works, and endeavours to prove, by elaborate disquisition, and by the aid of some capitally-selected parallel passages, that the Baronet of many initials certainly had the fiction of the Reverend Laurence Sterne in contemplation when he produced his "Family Picture." The approximation is certainly fully and clearly developed, and the paper will, I should think, call forth a reply, thus opening an agreeable controversy for those interested in such matters. Two books of Travel, Captain Allen's "Dead Sea—A New Route to India," and Lieutenant Burton's "Pilgrimage to Medina and Mecca," are reviewed, the latter receiving the palm for interest, good writing, and scrupulous description. Great exception is taken by the writer to Captain

Allen's title, which, he says, should properly be, "Fragments and Gleanings in the East; with Suggestions for a New Route to India and the Dead Sea." The author of "Digby Grand," in his new tale of "Kate Coventry," writes in that slangy man-about-townish, half-military, half-sporting style, which is supposed to be the desideratum now-a-days of a magazine serial novel. The story is supposed to be the autobiography of a young lady, and the chapters published this month, besides being replete with oaths and questionable phrases, contain a description of a run with hounds, the cant terms used in which show that Miss Coventry must have been a diligent peruser of that specially feminine journal, "Bell's Life."

"Tait" has a capital and laudatory review of Lewes' "Life of Goethe," which comes rather late in the day, to be sure, but is still welcome for the careful manner in which it has been done, and the good criticism it gives us. The sketch of "Alexandre Dumas," which I noticed last month, is continued, and we have now not merely a biographical notice, but an elaborate disquisition on Dumas' works, and his character as shown in them. There is also a rhymed legend called "Lily," by Mr. Mortimer Collins, scarcely up to the average of his productions; and a clever, though painful article on "Commercial Felonies," in which the case of Mr. Sadler is specially referred to.

The "Train" has a greater show of illustrations this month than usual, and Mr. Bennett's carefully pencilled portrait of "Beau Nash," is perhaps the best of them. The accompanying article by Mr. Draper, interesting though it be, is hardly equal to his excellent paper upon Wilkes in a former number. McConnell contributes a very good design to Chapter VI. of "Marston Lynch," and the tale itself opens up new ground, and bids fair to prove a capital story. Mr. McConnell, who has the unfortunate knack of imitating Leech's style of drawing, goes a step further in his illustration to Mr. Yates's lively sketch of "London Society," and actually transfers one of Leech's female figures into the group. An artist who can draw such a subject as that which monthly heads the "Waiting-Room" notices, has no need to borrow either style or character from even so admirable an adept as Mr. Leech. Mr. George Augustus Sala's paper on Robson is thoroughly good. It is like clever, original, smart to a fault, but unmistakably genuine. If Mr. Robson's thousands of admirers wish to know why it is that they admire his acting, let them read this paper and learn the secret. As a piece of criticism it is admirable—with none of the old conventional leaven about it—reminding one of Charles Lamb—not by its style, though, for that is totally dissimilar, but in its thoroughly original way of viewing the subject. Of the poetical contributions to the number, Mr. Brough's translation of another of Victor Hugo's romantic poems immeasurably takes the lead. I hope he will go through the series as successfully as he has commenced it. I can't say that I admire Mr. Snedley's verses, and I will spare your readers the pain of a quotation. Their proper place would be "Eliza Cook's Journal," or "Sharpe's London Magazine," or any of those "outsiders," that one never sees except in a bookseller's shop, and which number "Silverpen," and the author of "Mary Powell," among their contributors. The writer of the poem on "Solitude," who'd give "all wealth that toil hath piled, the bitter fruit of life's decay, to be once more a little child for one short sunny day," is, so far as I am concerned, welcome to return to his pinafores and bread and butter as quickly as he pleases. He would then be in his proper element.

The "Idler" has not reached me this month.

The "Entomologist's Annual for 1856" furnishes an account of various discoveries during the past year in the particular branch of science of which it treats. It also contains numerous popular articles on the same subject, with lists of works on entomology, both new and old, with a variety of other information useful to those desirous of becoming thoroughly acquainted with this intellectual pursuit. It is produced, like all this publisher's works, in a highly creditable style, and is sold, moreover, at the moderate price of half-a-crown.

## THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

"THE FIRST PRINTER" AT THE PRINCESS'S.

THERE are many men in London, far less clever at dramatic composition than Messrs. Tom Taylor and Charles Reade, who could have written a better play than "The First Printer," which was produced at the Princess's on Monday night. There is no particular interest in the story, and no elaboration of character; while the dialogue, intended in some places to be poetical, in others witty, is simply strained and pointless. The story of the play, which is laid in the fifteenth century, is this: Margaret Persyn (Miss Heath), is the daughter of the burgomaster of Haarlem (Mr. F. Matthews) and the Queen of a little Court, the principal features of which are a painter, a poet, and a captain in the service of Philip of Burgundy. She is also beloved by John of Gutenberg (Mr. Ryder), a poor and uncommonly scoundrelly noble; and by Lawrence Costar (Mr. C. Kean), a scribe and missal painter. On a certain *fête* day, the various suitors bring her their tokens of admiration, that of Lawrence Costar being a copy of verses, printed on paper, and the first results of his experiments in his new invention, typography. But the verses are queer, and the printing not only rough, but utterly unappreciated; so Margaret, who really loves Costar, looks upon his offering as a slight, and tears up his cherished "proof." Meanwhile, Jacqueline, Countess of Holland (Miss Murray) an old friend of Margaret's, has escaped from her prison, and, disguised as a page, comes to Haarlem, and beseeches the assistance of her friend in getting written and disseminated a proclamation, calling the burghers to arms against Philip. The plot is overheard by Gutenberg, who has perceived Margaret's admiration of Costar, and, loving her himself, is determined to avail himself of his discovery in getting rid of his rival. He, accordingly, proceeds to Costar's house, is entrusted with the secret of the printing invention, and when Costar, who has been won by Margaret into printing the proclamation, goes out to affix a copy to the church gates, Gutenberg calls in the soldiers, steals the types, breaks down the press, and leaves his friend to a perpetual imprisonment. In the last act we find Gutenberg established at Mentz, having, in consequence of his theft, been enabled to get himself acknowledged as the first printer, and, by the exercise of his craft, gained great wealth and high position. After four years' imprisonment, the wretched Costar, beggared and emaciated, comes to Mentz to find his fame taken by his false friend, and his promised bride, Margaret, also on the point of being married to Gutenberg. He is, however, enabled to clear himself of the crime of falsity in his mistress's eyes, and to be re-installed once more in her good graces; two or three of his friends also give him credit for his invention, but the major part of his fame, and all the profits accruing from it, are retained by Gutenberg, who, in the eyes of most of the audience, apparently has the best of the bargain.

So much for the story; for the acting, Mr. Kean was careful, meritorious, and impressive, as he always is in melodrama. I could not understand the intense enthusiasm of the audience, but that they were highly pleased was evinced by the tremendous applause with which they greeted his every speech. The part of John of Gutenberg could not have been better played than it was by Mr. Ryder, one of the "safest" actors on the stage; and Mr. Frank Matthews made the most of a character far below his capabilities. Poor Mr. David Fisher (the Town Jester, and, by a curious anachronism, spoken of as "Tom-o'-Bedlam") uttered the sorry nonsense set down for him in a lugubrious manner, as though he felt the meanness of his position; while Miss Heath spoke and acted like Mrs. Kean seen through the wrong end of an opera-glass.

The conflagration of Covent Garden Theatre, on Wednesday morning, was a sad finale to Mr. Anderson's two nights' benefit. At the moment there was seen issuing above the roof of the theatre one immense sheet of flame, which swayed to and fro, as it towered high into the air, the spectacle was one far more sublime than any I ever witnessed within its walls. The gathering crowd—the rattling of the engines—the shouts of the firemen and police—the terrified looks of the masquers, who rushed wildly from the building in terror for their lives—the glare of the blazing edifice, brightening up the gray haze of the morning, altogether formed a scene which those who witnessed it can never forget. I saw your artist at his post of danger, and next week I feel confident your readers will be gratified by the masterly representations he will produce of the disastrous event.



### THE NEW BISHOP OF CARLISLE.

THE vacant seat on the Episcopal Bench, so long occupied by Dr. Percy, of whom our obituary gave an account in No. 39 of the "Illustrated Times," has fallen to the lot of the Hon. and Rev. Henry Montague Villiers, rector of St. George's, Bloomsbury, and younger brother of the Earl of Clarendon, a sketch of whose life has been recently in our reader's hands. To judge from the daily and weekly journals which take a neutral part in matters connected with the Established Church, the nomination is one which gives general satisfaction. The "Record," and other papers which advocate what is called "Low Church" views, are in positive raptures, and even the High Church "Guardian" lowers its note a little, and though it would evidently have preferred a man more zealous of "Synodal action," and pledged to "the revival of Convocation," still acquiesces in Lord Palmerston's choice as a "tolerably decent appointment;" and, acknowledging him to be an "extreme Low Churchman," is anxious only to bargain that both sides shall have their turn, and that the same latitude shall be given to its party as to that of Mr. Villiers. The new prelate is one whose clerical public career and high aristocratic connections, have combined to bring him prominently forward during the last 15 years, as one of the most deserving of the parochial clergy of London. He is, as we have said, brother of the Earl of Clarendon, K.G., and of the Right Hon. Charles Pelham Villiers, M.P. for Wolverhampton, being the youngest surviving son of the late Hon. George Villiers, brother of the late Earl of Clarendon, by a daughter of the first Lord Boringdon. He was born in 1813, and was educated, we believe, at Westminster School, from which he was elected in 1831, to a Scholarship at Christ Church, Oxford. Here he graduated B.A. in 1834, but his name does not appear among the list of either classical or mathematical honours in that year. In 1837 he took the degree of M.A., and in the same year married Amelia Maria, daughter of William Hatton, Esq., of Hatton Park, Lancashire. He had already taken holy orders, and after exercising clerical functions as vicar of Kenilworth in the county of Warwick, in 1841, succeeded Dr. Thomas Vowler Short, now Bishop of St. Asaph, in the Rectory of St. George's, Bloomsbury, on the presentation of the Crown. In this metropolitan sphere of usefulness, and as Canon of St. Paul's, he has proved himself a most laborious and efficient clergyman. His views are decidedly evangelical, with an admixture of liberal ideas; and instead of wasting his time in fruitless efforts to revive the existence and energies of an extinct convocation, no longer suited to the spirit of the age, he has thrown himself zealously into the task of evangelising the semi-heathen population of a crowded London parish, and of ministering at the same time to the temporal wants of his poorer parishioners. If there has been a reading-room to be opened, or baths to be erected for their good, Mr. Montague Villiers has always lent a helping hand in the work. He bears the character of



HON. AND REV. MONTAGUE VILLIERS, THE NEW BISHOP OF CARLISLE.

a popular orator, rather than that of a mere "popular preacher;" and the best wishes of his parishioners will accompany him to his wider and more exalted sphere of duty in the north. Mr. Montague Villiers owes his promotion, partly, it is true, to the fact that he is the brother of one of our most able and upright statesmen, and brother-in-law of the Chancellor of her Majesty's Exchequer; but not to this fact alone. He does not owe it, like a Maltby, a Blomfield, or a Monk, to Greek lexicons, Greek plays, and Greek metres; he will not be a mere "schoolmaster bishop," like the prelates of Ripon and Manchester; still less does he owe his mitre to Court intrigue. He has learned in the best of schools, and served the very best apprenticeship for the Episcopal office—the life of a hard-working and high-minded pastor in a populous and important London parish. In one word, he will be a parochial prelate; and, as such, the far greater portion of the clergy and of the public in general, will have

to all comers, the discovery has been an enormous boon to the fishermen, especially as the oysters can be forwarded at once to town by the Brighton and South Coast Railway, and escape the metage and other tolls before alluded to. The best Channel oysters are the "Roadsters," which can be recognised by a certain flatness of shell, or by dark purple or black marks on the shell, especially on the side on which the oyster rests when in its natural bed. The mid-Channel oysters are of a very large, coarse, and rough kind, and are seldom sent out by West End fishmongers except to be used in sauce. The huge oysters which we see in costermonger's barrows, are called "Scuttle-mouths," and are to be procured all the year round, so that "Oyster-Day," *par excellence*, the 4th of August, has lost its significance in a great degree. Real "natives," however, are as much in request as ever; the demand for them has long exceeded the supply, and the price has consequently risen. The attention be-

been gratified at Majesty's command mending the elevation of tagu Villiers to the See of Carlisle. The Cathedral of Carlisle, founded by William Rufus, See, from which the days, derived one Lord and two Lord Treasurers, was lished in 1133, by Henry B.

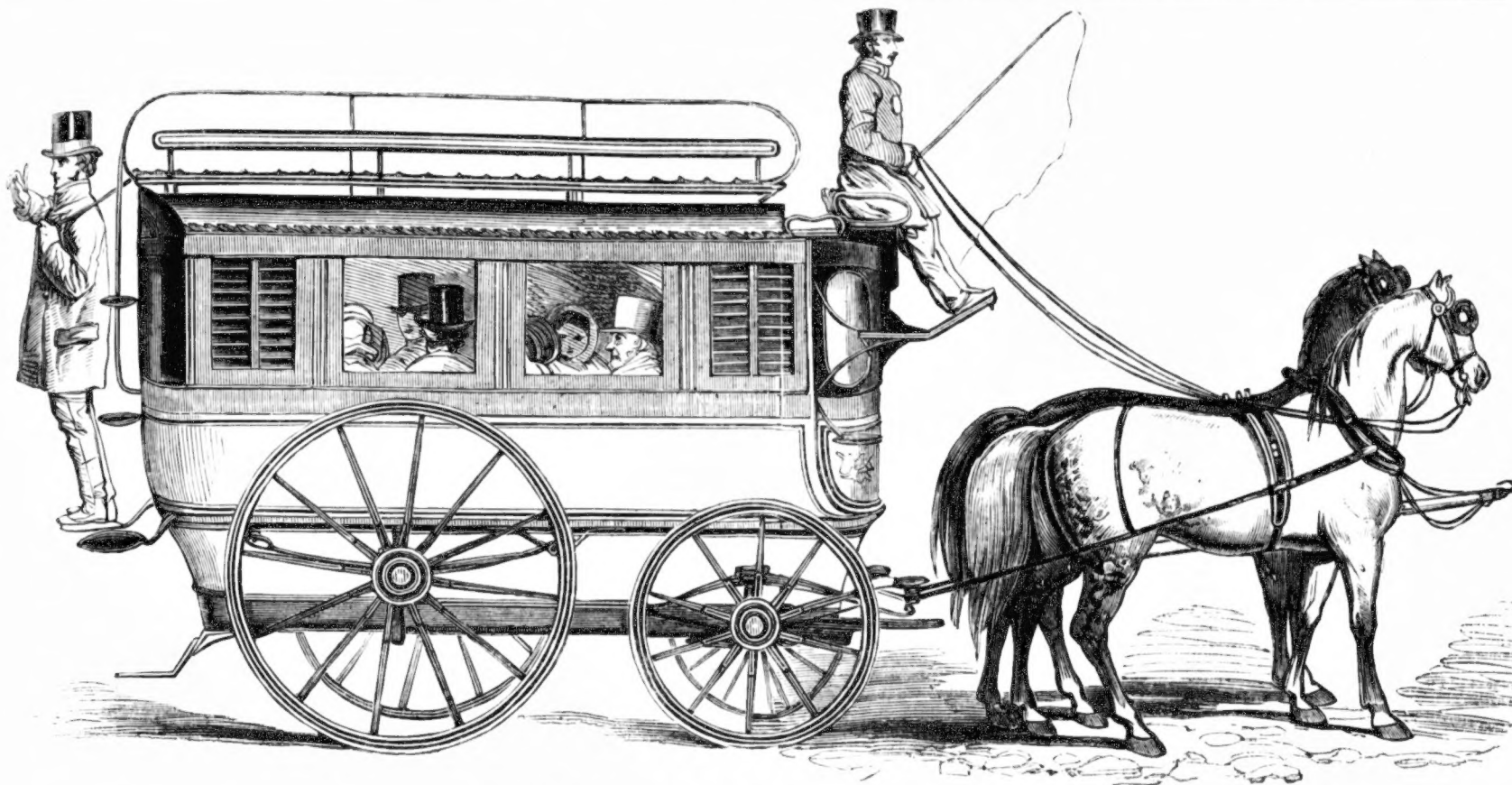
### OYSTER FISHING.

"YA-AS, let's have oysters begin with!" draws young forget to the steward of the who is submitting the *carte* of the dinner, which givento Sporklinkelof the service. "Now, Scott, with another dozen of natives," says little Grigg, across the counter of the shop in the Haymarket, at two and endeavouring to coo-pered stomach into the of an appetite. But in ability neither of these gent has the smallest idea of the culties and dangers to be tered by those upon whom dependent for a supply of favourite luxury. Let us our to impart a little info on the subject. A few years to see the fleets of oyster coming up the Thames to Bligate, was indeed a great sight steam, which is annihilating and space, and utterly changing appearance of the country, has revolutionised the fish trade, swept away the whole fleet of smacks. Oysters are now warded from all parts of the by the railways, by which they not only arrive much speedily at their destination, they escape the dues of metage those toils to which all fish at the market are subjected. Most the oysters are regularly cultivated by different companies, who rear and tend them at different the south coast, and at the of the Thames. There are some these companies possessing a working perfect "sea farms," several of which are miles in extent. In all beds there is a certain space apart for "natives." Some few years ago a great natural bed, called the Mid-Channel Bed, was discovered. It stretches for 40 miles between the ports of Shoreham and Havre, and as the dredging ground is free



OYSTER DREDGERS OFF THE COAST.—(FROM A PAINTING BY E. F. D. PRITCHARD.)





THE PRIZE OMNIBUS OF THE LONDON GENERAL OMNIBUS COMPANY.

towed upon these fish would scarcely be credited. At Burnham, Essex, where the best "natives" are reared (and of the produce of which beds, Mr. Sweeting, of Cheapside, is the principal consignee) the "spat," or fecundated sperm, is stored in large pits, and sold as "native brood," which is afterwards laid in that portion of the different beds appropriated to privileged oysters. The young "natives" remain here for three years, when they are brought to market, and sold to the fish-shop keepers, by whom they are stored in large shallow vats, carefully laid with their proper sides uppermost, and daily supplied with oatmeal.

Our engraving of "Oyster Dredgers off the Coast," is taken from a spirited painting by Mr. E. F. D. Pritchard, whose contribution to this year's Exhibition of the British Institution, "A Fishing Smack getting under Way in Plymouth Sound," has been so universally admired.

#### THE ANGLO-FRENCH OMNIBUS COMPANY.

Six or seven weeks ago we informed our readers of the formation of a new omnibus company, whose object is, when their negotiations are completed, to work the whole of the omnibus traffic of the metropolis on one general system of inter-communication, by means of the French plan of correspondence tickets. During the short existence of the Company, a capital of £800,000 has been collected, and 300 omnibuses are already in operation, giving constant work to more than 3,500 horses, and employing more than 1,000 men. This result is really marvellous, as they own now nearly one-half of the entire number of omnibuses in the metropolis, and in the course of a few weeks they will have in their possession the whole number. They have, it appears, an intention of gradually introducing an entirely new kind of vehicle altogether, in place of the most unsatisfactory boxes at present in use, and they offered a premium of £100 for the best model of a vehicle affording greater public accommodation, facility of ingress and egress, and better ventilation. This course was adopted, because, if they hastily fixed upon one kind of carriage, and ordered some three or four hundred to be built at a cost of from £30,000 to £40,000, this vast expenditure might be thrown away if the public disapproved of them. Three gentlemen of eminence in the engineering world, and not connected with the Company, were appointed as judges.

Of the seventy-five models sent in, very few, it appears, were in any respect calculated to answer the objects of the directors of the Company. The Judges in their report say:—

"We have first to express our regret that, although many of the propositions display considerable ingenuity, and offer here and there improvements, we do not find any one design of supereminent merit, or calculated, in its present shape, to afford that increased amount of comfort and accommodation your company, with praiseworthy foresight, desires to give the public, and which will doubtless be looked for at your hands. Inasmuch however, as we are required to select one of the designs as the best amongst those submitted, considered with regard to your stipulations and wants, we beg leave to point out the design No. 64, sent in by Mr. Miller, of Hammersmith. Inquiry of Mr. Miller, and the examination of a full-sized omnibus built by him (after arriving at this determination), have shown us that if his intentions were more completely expressed in his drawing than is the case, the design would be more worthy of the premium."

The selected design (Mr. Miller's) has many improvements compared with the omnibus now in use. From the seats to the roof it has three inches more head room, and fourteen inches in the centre from the bottom to the inside of the roof. The model is eight inches wider inside than the present omnibus; and allowing eighteen inches for each passenger, it will carry twelve persons outside and thirteen inside. Each passenger will be separated from his fellow passenger by means of brass rods. The model provides a bell and a lamp for the conductor; and passengers will ascend to the seats on the roof by means of steps, handles, and rails, with as much composure as if they were ascending from their own parlours to their drawing rooms. The seats on the roof are conveniently arranged with a passage in the centre, and good leg room. The design has also circular ends, upright sides down to the seat, so as to give greater width at that point, to enable the sitter to draw back when a passenger is passing him; a well for the legs, narrower than the upper part, which permits the body of the carriage to hang nearer to the ground than in those ordinarily in use; and a simplification of the springs.

Since the formation of the above company, we understand that another is about to be established, with the view of "rescuing the metropolis from the threatened monopoly" aimed at by the Anglo-French proprietors. It will be associated as a *Société en Commandite*, but will use an English company's title; and Sir J. V. Shelley, Bart., M.P., and General Wyndham, M.P., who procured a reduction of duty on omnibuses last session to the amount of £40,000 a year, are identified with the project. This new undertaking will comprise English omnibuses and English omnibus-builders. It is registered under the Limited Liability Act, and it will avail itself of all *bond fide* improvements, for the comfort and convenience of metropolitan travellers.

#### WINDOW GARDENING, AND THE CULTIVATION OF PLANTS IN ROOMS.—NO. 2.

In accordance with the promise made in our last number, we this week introduce to our readers several representations of pendant flower baskets, which class of room ornaments has recently come much into vogue. One illustration represents a suspending vase on a large scale, of the modern Palissy ware; the ground of which is white, relieved with the judicious and

semi-opaque. A still cheaper kind of basket is made, in imitation of miniature rockwork, which is very suitable where any of the surrounding objects are of a rustic character. There are also very pretty vases of red terra-cotta; and still commoner ones, of the porous material of ordinary flower-pots. Some of these terra-cotta vases are made with circular apertures in the sides; in which openings, roots of the weeping *isolepis gracilis* are planted, producing a very pleasing effect, and nearly concealing the common material of the vase.

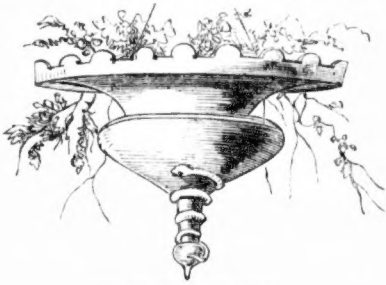
These suspended baskets, however rich in detail, should always be light and graceful in design, a massive character being entirely unsuited to their position and purpose. It should be remembered that the adaptation of design to situation and purpose is one of the great criteria of taste in all matters relating to the elegancies of life.

In order that these graceful and always-attractive receptacles for floral display may make a brilliant appearance in May and June, preparations should now be in progress. Cuttings of plants required should be struck and got forward, and other plants, more shy of removal, should be established in the baskets themselves, so as to be in full vigour when the later additions are made—preparations which can at this period of the year be carried on in any ordinary greenhouse.

Some of the most suitable plants of which cuttings should now be coming forward for this purpose, are pelargoniums, especially the best scarlets; and seedling petunias of different kinds should be raised, as their habit of growth, as well as their varied and attractive colours, render them peculiarly adapted for a suspended position. The effects of the richer colours may be greatly aided by tufts of the graceful grass-like *isolepis gracilis*, and by some long trailing plants of *tropaeolum canariensis*, which might be artificially festooned from one vase to another. Among the most desirable plants of pendulous growth, suited to baskets or vases suspended in this manner, are, first and foremost, all the verbenas, which are naturally of trailing habit, and of every variety of gay colour, from snow white to rose, violet, crimson, and dazzling scarlet. Mr. Henderson of Pineapple Gate, has several novelties this season, eclipsing even his "Mrs. Woodruffe" of last year, the flowers of which, of deep scarlet carmine, are individually as large as a sixpence, and the clusters two or three inches across. Then there is the pendulous fuchsia, "*fuchsia pendula*," which will always form a pleasing addition. The pretty moss-like *lycopodium flexuosum* forms a nice cushion of green for the gaily-coloured flowers to rest on; and its effect may be somewhat varied by the introduction of the new species, *lycopodium ccesum*, which is bolder and more branching in its growth.

Among our illustrations will be noticed a design for an ornamental flower-pot, the tasteful appearance of which class of articles, now that the cultivation of plants in rooms is becoming so general, is felt to be a matter deserving of serious attention: and the manufacturers, we are glad to find, are busily engaged producing some very elegant patterns in glazed earthenware.

The little campanula glomerata is a plant well adapted for suspended baskets, as are also the following, some of which will be found, not only



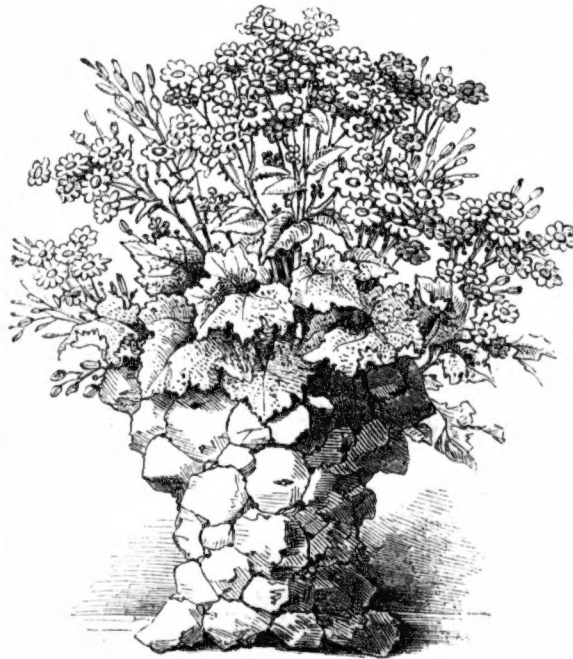
GLASS FLOWER VASE.

sparing addition of a few rich colours. The patterns of these vases should invariably be more or less geometrical, and at all events a compound of conventionalised ornament, as any attempt at imitative flowers, either in relief or in painted additions on the flat surface, would be in bad taste, when brought into immediate juxtaposition with real flowers.



TERRA COTTA FLOWER VASE.

The other engravings are specimens of cheaper kinds of suspending vases. Those of glass are very elegant, and at the same time inexpensive, not more than a few shillings each. The one from which our engraving is taken, was a rich, but at the same time delicate, turquoise blue, semi-opaque, with the snake-like ornament about the pendant of a pale, pearly white, and also



ORNAMENTAL FLOWER POT.



PALISSY WARE FLOWER VASE.



adapted for this graceful purpose, but in every way very splendid plants:—

List.	
<i>Brachysema Latifolia</i>	Beautiful flowers.
<i>Saxifraga Sarcutosa</i>	Curious leaves, and long trailing shoots.
<i>Hoya Carnosa, variegata</i>	Fine plant, both for flowers and foliage.
<i>Hoya Picta</i>	Ditto, ditto.
<i>Hoya Bella</i>	Ditto, ditto.
<i>Treescantia Discolor</i>	For its curiously striped leaves.
<i>Torrenia Asiatica</i>	Fine pale lilac flower, blotched with deep purple.
<i>Variegated Ivy-leaved Geranium</i>	
<i>Dark Crimson flowered do.</i>	
<i>Eschynanthus Boschianus</i>	Fine plant.
<i>Ditto Pulcher Major</i>	Ditto.
<i>Epiphillum Speciosum</i>	Profuse rose-coloured flowers.
<i>Other species of Epiphillum</i>	All beautiful.
<i>Kennedia Coccinea</i>	Splendid scarlet pea flower.
<i>Lotus Jacobina</i>	Dark maroon pea flower.
<i>Mesembrianthemum Coccineum</i>	
<i>Ditto Glaucum</i>	Fleshy foliage, and all brilliant flowers.
<i>Ditto Spectabile</i>	
<i>Nierembergia Gracilis</i>	Graceful plant, white flowers, streaked with blue.
<i>Ditto Intermedium</i>	Very pretty.
<i>Lobelia Oculata</i>	Profuse flowers.

The common musk, *Mimulus Moschata*, also forms a good plant for this purpose.

In our next article, we shall treat of the introduction of flowers as an elegant kind of room decoration in a more extended form, and our suggestions for some entirely novel arrangements and effects will be accompanied by explanatory designs.

#### THE LATE MR. SADLER'S DEFALCATIONS.

THE TIPPERARY JOINT-STOCK BANK.

TUESDAY being the day appointed for hearing the petition filed by Messrs. Murrough and Kennedy, at the suit of Rafferty, a shareholder in the Tipperary Bank, praying that the company might be placed under the provisions of the Joint-Stock Winding-up Act, the court, says a Dublin correspondent, was crowded by persons interested in the case.

After hearing counsel, the Master of the Rolls proceeded to deliver judgment, and having reviewed in general terms the case as it was brought before him, pronounced it to be a fraud of so gigantic a character that no living being had ever seen anything like it. He read extracts from the report issued by the bank to the shareholders at a meeting held on the 1st of February, 1856, in which it was stated that the assets of the company were equal to £100,000, whereas it appeared to him that their assets would not exceed £35,000; that Mr. James Sadler, the sole manager and director, had permitted his brother, the late Mr. John Sadler, to overdraw £200,000, by which the bank had become a defaulter to the amount of £400,000, whilst at that very period, on the 1st of February last, Mr. James Sadler declared the payment of a dividend at the rate of six per cent. to the shareholders, carrying over £3,000 and upwards to the reserved fund, which was represented to be £17,000, and further representing the bank to be in a flourishing state. In conclusion, his Honour said he could have no difficulty in complying with the petition, that the company should be wound up, and that it should stand dissolved from that day. His Honour also referred to the Master to appoint a solicitor in the cause, taking care that no solicitor having connection in any way with Mr. James Sadler, or with the drawing up of the report of the bank read on the 1st of February, 1856, should be appointed to the office.

Commenting upon the late Sadler frauds, the "Dublin Evening Mail" says:—"This must be said in simple justice to the memory of Sir Robert Peel, that if he had not set a limit upon banks of issue in Ireland, the whole country would now be in a state of dire distress and commotion through the delinquencies of Mr. John Sadler. That reckless speculator would have found it easier to issue bank-notes in excess of his lawful number than railway shares or forgeries of deeds. All the fairs of the south and west of Ireland would, therefore, have been inundated with Tipperary paper, which, by that means, would have obtained general circulation. The cattle-markets and the corn-markets would have been 'rigged' to make up the deficiencies of settlements in Capel Court. Wool would have ruled high everywhere west of Barrack Bridge, whatever price it might fetch at Bradford. Butter, also, would have met sporting buyers with handfuls of ready money in Sadler's notes. It is fearful to contemplate what a universal smash would have ensued upon the wind-up of such gigantic operations, from the effects of which we must, in common candour and in gratitude, confess that the foresight of the late Sir Robert Peel preserved us."

**MURDER OF MR. CALLAGHAN.**—It appears that on Friday night last, as Mr. Callaghan, an Irish solicitor, was returning from a tenant's house to his own cottage, on the estate of Ballinacree, he was met by some persons who murdered him in the most brutal manner, beating in his entire forehead from temple to temple, knocking out his eyes, and actually burying his right eyeball in an immense gash upon his cheek. The spot where he was murdered is about 150 yards from his residence, and exhibited one of those spectacles easier conceived than told—a round deep pool of clotted blood, surrounded an indentation in the soil the size and shape of the hinder portion of the human skull; and into this cavity, hard beaten, the head of the unfortunate gentleman was pounded with stones on almost every side, while the sword about for several yards is spotted and spattered with his blood. Many rumours are rife, but the main facts show that Mr. Callaghan had obtained this property lately, had ejected some of the occupying tenants, introduced a Scotch steward—in fact, had commenced upon the alienating system. He was killed at the end of a house out of which he had evicted a widow, and from within the walls of which it is thought was hurried the first stone.

**UNADULTERATED ARTICLES.**—Dr. Taylor proposes, as a remedy for preventing or checking adulteration in articles of consumption, that a board should be appointed, composed of five scientific persons, to whom all matters connected with the subject should be referred, and who should be authorised to grant certificates of the pure and genuine character of the articles they had examined. This plan, however, as the doctor himself perceives, would not entirely protect the public against the frauds of dishonest manufacturers and traders, as a single package or case of goods might be pronounced unadulterated, and be exposed in a warehouse or shop in which a large stock of an adulterated article of a similar denomination was daily sold. We are glad measures are thus being devised for the exposure of those flagrant impositions from which the public have already suffered so much, and to abate the evil we shall not fail to apply the salutary check at our disposal.—PUBLICITY.

**THE WRECK OF THE JOSEPHINE WILLIS.**—According to the accounts from Dover, the divers employed on the sunken wreck of the *Josephine Willis*, off Folkestone, have been partially successful in their operations. All the spars, rigging, &c., have been cleared away, and they have been able to penetrate into the chief cabin, and remove a quantity of luggage, bearing the names of Miss Logan and Mr. Ray. They also secured a mahogany chest, from the cabin, which, it was found, contained the ship's plate, besides many other articles of value. A large round table floating about the cabin, partly obstructed the divers getting at other property. This they intend getting away, by removing the skylight, when they will be enabled to get at all the property belonging to the passengers from the cabin. Next week, attempts will be made, should the weather prove favourable, to get at the cargo.

**THE JAIL OF NEWGATE AND THE TICKET-OF-LEAVE SYSTEM.**—A report, published on Saturday last, by the Rev. J. Davis, the ordinary of Newgate, contains the following, respecting the ticket-of-leave system:—"We have had, during the last year, a number of these cases brought into Newgate for trial, and the reason of their release into crime is easily traceable to the want of close observation as to those that, when released from prison, regain their position, and those who are no sooner at liberty, than they fall back to ways of dishonesty. Criminals who reform, or, at least, do not return again to prison, are those who deeply feel the degradation of crime, and leave prison with good purposes of amendment. They are received and encouraged in these hopes by their friends—they are upheld in times of difficulty and distrust, and by a patient continuance in well-doing, succeed. These remarks apply to a large number liberated from Newgate. But, on the other hand, when, after ever so long an imprisonment, an offender returns to corrupt and depraved friends, whatever impression, however sincere, may have been made in prison, is soon obliterated and destroyed, and they relapse into crime. It is singular that as yet no female convict, to whom a ticket-of-leave has been given, has abused this privilege, so as to excite public indignation." Since the report by Mr. Davis was made public, extensive alterations have been projected in the formation of the jail, which are being proceeded with, in order to remedy various evils referred to by the ordinary.

**THE ATTEMPTED MURDER IN THE SURREY THEATRE.**—Frederick Quennell was again examined at the Southwark Police Court, on Monday, on the charge of attempting to murder William Hurson, in the Surrey Theatre, on the night of Saturday week last. Evidence in corroboration of the circumstances already stated was given, and the prisoner was committed for trial.

**THE BEDFORD ROW MURDER.**—Weston, the murderer of Mr. Waugh, is, by the decision of the Home-office, to be condemned to penal servitude for life. The jury, it will be remembered, found him guilty of the murder, but also found that he was "predisposed to insanity."

**MASSACRE AT MADAGASCAR.**—Intelligence has just reached this country of a fearful outrage having been committed on a party of Frenchmen in Madagascar. Seven lives have been sacrificed, and a large amount of property seized by the perpetrators—a party of Hovas in the service of the Queen of Madagascar.

#### OUR INQUIRY IN CONNECTION WITH LIFE ASSURANCE.

(Continued from our last Number.)

OFFICE NO. XIX.

THE secretary of this office had heard of numerous cases of fraud connected with life assurance offices, and was familiar with many of those which we have mentioned. If we confined our inquiry to cases in which persons had been absolutely poisoned for the sake of assurance money, he was of opinion that it must soon be at an end; but almost innumerable instances had occurred of assurance offices being defrauded in a less criminal manner. An Irishman had boasted, that if he assured his life in a black coat, and a few years afterwards made his appearance at the assurance office in a blue coat, with brass buttons, and with a certificate of his own death in his hand, he would have no difficulty in obtaining the assurance money. The Irishman exaggerated the facility with which these frauds could be successfully committed, but there could be no doubt that by means of personation and false certificates, the companies were forced to pay a great deal of money which they really did not owe. The false certificates to which he referred were, in most cases, certificates as to the health of the person about to be insured, although forged certificates of death had sometimes been made use of. There would, however, always be a difficulty about a deception of the latter kind, as the certificate of a physician as to the cause of death would not be accepted as proof, except in rare cases, and when the physician was well known to the office.

A case had occurred in which a man whose life had been insured for some hundreds of pounds, caused a certificate to be sent to the office to the effect that he had died of "bursting a blood-vessel." The statement as to the cause of death was not considered sufficiently explicit. Some inquiries were accordingly made respecting the medical man who had signed the certificate, and it appeared that no such person was in existence.

On the other hand, it appeared that the man to whom the certificate referred, was in existence, although it was, unfortunately, impossible to punish him for the fraud to which he had been a party. The application had been made in the name of a man to whom the policy had been assigned, and who had very prudently caused the letter to be written by some one else. This man boldly asserted that the letter was a hoax, and that he knew nothing at all about it; but if the communication had had the desired effect, the applicant would simply have had to sign his name in presence of the secretary, or some other officer connected with the company, and if the remark had been made that the signature was not in the handwriting of the original letter, he need only have stated that the latter was the production of some secretary or clerk.

In order to give corroborative proof of the death of the person assured, it had been advertised in the local papers, a mock funeral had been arranged, and a tombstone had even been ordered for the grave. It was the evidence of the tombstone sculptor, who had quarrelled with the "deceased" as to the terms on which the epitaph was to be executed, which led to the discovery of the fraud.

OFFICE NO. XX.

This office had never actually suffered from fraudulent assurances, although it had had some very narrow escapes.

The life of a man named B. had been proposed to them some years since. B. had lately had a hundred pounds lent him by his cousin, who stated that he wished to effect the insurance in order to secure himself against loss. The cousin had already insured B.'s life in three different offices, in each case for £500. This fact having been in the first instance concealed when the application was being made to the office with which our informant was connected, the medical examination was conducted with more than usual care, and inquiries were made in every direction, as, although the amount to be insured for was small, the office was determined not to be the victim of any fraud.

All that was suspected was that B.'s life might be an intemperate one.

It was stated that B. was a teetotaler, but as teetotalers were in many cases nothing but drunkards who had acquired a temporary horror of drinking, this qualification was considered a doubtful one. It had been stated in answer to a question from the secretary of the first office in which B.'s life had been insured, that he had once been of intemperate habits, but that he had since reformed. In the application to the fourth office (our informant's), it was simply said that B. was a teetotaler.

At the period of the medical examination, B. appeared in a perfectly healthy condition, and exhibited none of the symptoms usually observable in intemperate persons (such as nervousness, irregular circulation, &c.), although the examination was prolonged for several hours, in order that the effects of any temporary "training" might have time to disappear. The life was then accepted.

A year afterwards, when two half-yearly premiums had in due course been paid, the cousin wrote to the secretary, stating that B.'s life was unsafe, that B. had had two attacks of *delirium tremens*, and that he (the cousin), unwilling to take an unfair advantage of the company, would give up the policy if the company would return the premiums he had paid.

The secretary replied, that if the attack of *delirium tremens* had occurred before the insurance was effected, the policy became void, as it had been obtained through misrepresentation. He at the same time requested to be told the name and address of the medical man who had attended B., as, whether the attacks had occurred before or after the granting of the policy, the company desired to be informed of the actual state of B.'s health. No answer was returned to this letter, and the secretary accordingly wrote to B. himself, who informed him that he had never at any time had *delirium tremens*, and that since his life had been insured, he had tasted no intoxicating liquor whatever. It subsequently appeared that B. got married immediately after the insurance on his life had been effected, and that a year afterwards (just before the cousin wrote his letter to the secretary), he gave back the hundred pounds which he had borrowed. The cousin had speculated upon B.'s returning to dissipated habits, directly he had the means of doing so, and was perfectly indignant at the money he had advanced being applied to matrimonial purposes. When, after a twelve-month, it became certain that B. had become a firm convert to temperance, the cousin wished to frighten the company into returning the premium, but of course nothing of the kind was done.

Our informant next mentioned a case in which a man, after insuring his own life (in which his interest was undeniable) tried to sell the policy for more than its value, by representing himself to be in a dangerous condition.

First he announced to the company that he had had a severe attack of typhus fever, "from which he felt he should never recover." Then being "fortunate" enough (as he, no doubt, considered himself) to be present at a collision on a railway, he informed the company that he had suffered "mortal injuries," although it appeared from the newspapers that he had only had his knee slightly grazed. Ultimately, the policy was sold to a third person, since which time the sufferer from typhus fever and railway collision had made no complaints of illness.

OFFICE NO. XXI.

The only case of deliberate poisoning in connection with life assurance which the secretary could remember, was one that occurred in Germany. A gentleman, who was in the habit of taking small doses of acetate of morphia, mixed with water, at intervals of five or six hours, was found, one morning, dead in his bed. He was proved to have died from the effects of morphia; but it was also shown, from the analysis of the contents of a glass which was found close to his bedside (where he usually had it placed) that the mixture which had apparently produced his death contained a much larger proportion of the acetate of morphia than the dose he was in the habit of taking. There were some other facts which tended to show that a servant who constantly attended upon him had strengthened the dose while the gentleman was asleep, and that the latter had swallowed it almost unconsciously on waking. There was no reason whatever for supposing that the deceased had died by his own act. On the other hand, it was discovered that the servant had held frequent communications with one of the deceased's acquaintances, to whom a policy for two thousand pounds on the deceased's life had been assigned; and that soon after his master's death he lived in a very expensive manner, for which he pretended to account by saying that he had met with a "run of luck" at one of the German gambling-houses. The assurance office disputed the claim on the ground of misrepresentation, the deceased's habit of taking morphia having been kept secret; the claimant then discontinued the action.

(To be continued.)

#### ASSIZE INTELLIGENCE.

##### MURDER OF A GAMEKEEPER BY POACHERS.

On Tuesday, James Thurgood, 29, William Thurgood, 22, Thomas Thurgood, 23 (brothers), and James Guiver, 30, all described as labourers, were charged at Chelmsford, upon the coroner's inquisition, with the wilful murder of William Hales.

Ebenezer Chalk, an accomplice, was the first witness examined. He appeared to be about 20 years old. He said—I am a labourer, and live at Fairford, near Chelmsford—I know all the prisoners. On the night of the 18th of February, we were all at a beer-shop at Fairford, and we turned out about ten o'clock, and then accompanied Guiver to the place where he lodged. He went in, and a short time came out with a gun. We walked towards Barham, where we saw all the three Thurgoods in a lane. Each of them had a gun. We went on towards the Duke's wood, which was the place we were to go to. I and Guiver did not walk quite so fast as the others, and we fell back, and William Thurgood seeing this, called out—"Come on, you seem to be lagging back there." I said in reply, "I don't think I shall go." James Thurgood then said, "Come on, don't be frightened; I shall not be taken this night by any one. I shall shoot any one before I will be taken this night." We then went into the wood, and I heard three shots fired, and two pheasants were killed, and they fell into a pond close by. I put one of them into my pocket, and I passed up the second, and Guiver told me to give it to him, and he said it was his last, and he knew what to do with it. I said that I thought I heard some one coming up the wood towards us, and one of the prisoners replied, "Come on, there is no one coming." I said, "I shall go now," and ran out of the wood. I had a gun. When I had got a short distance, I heard a strange voice say, "Come on, mates, here they are." I was running away at this time, and almost immediately after I heard these words, there was the report of a gun. I kept on running, and saw nothing more of any of the prisoners till I got home; and after I had been there about ten minutes, Guiver and William Thurgood came up, and Guiver asked me if I had seen anything of Teddyfar, which was a nickname for James Thurgood. I said I had not, and William Thurgood then said, "I dare say he is taken." The prisoners had their guns with them at this time.

Joseph Wisby, a keeper in the service of Sir John Tyrrell, said—On the night of the 18th of February, I, and my father, and the deceased, who were also gamekeepers, were out in Duke's Wood for the purpose of watching. It was a moonlight night, but occasionally cloudy. We all went into a hut in the wood, and while we were there we heard three shots fired in the wood. It was then about half-past 12 o'clock. Upon hearing the discharge of the guns we all proceeded in the direction of the sound. The deceased went away from us, and almost immediately afterwards I heard him cry out, "Come on, mates, here they are." Upon his saying this, I and my father ran into the wood in the direction of his voice. I was in advance of my father, and when I had got a very short distance I heard the deceased say, "Oh dear," and at the same instant I saw the flash of a gun, and heard the report, and then there was the sound of some heavy body falling to the ground. I kept on my way into the wood, and a few yards further on I saw the prisoner James Thurgood. He was coming towards me, but the moment he saw me he ran across the pond. At this time he had a gun in his hand. I ran after him and stopped him on the other side of the pond, and my father came up at the same time, and took the gun away from him, and threw it into the pond. I could see that the gun was not loaded at this time. When I had hold of the prisoner, he said, "Don't hurt me—I've hurt no one." My father said to him, "No, you have only shot that poor man." We then took the prisoner to Duke's Lodge farm, and as we were going along I asked him who had shot the man, and he said he did not know—there were three or four about him, and he did not know which of them shot him. My father said something to the prisoner which I did not hear, and he, in reply, said, "He fell back like a dead man certainly." The prisoner was searched, and some powder and shot and percussion caps were taken from him. I and my father, and some other persons, then went back to the wood, and found the deceased lying on his back, and quite dead. His clothes were smouldering with fire. There was not the least appearance of any struggle having taken place at the spot where he was lying.

James B. Wisby, the father of the last witness, corroborated his testimony. Mr. O. Copeland, a surgeon at Chelmsford, said—Immediately I received information of this occurrence I proceeded to Boreham, where I saw the body of the deceased. He was quite dead. I made a more careful examination of the body on the same evening. I then observed a circular wound, about the size of a crown piece, on the front of the neck, and a considerable portion of the deceased's clothing—such as his shirt, flannel waistcoat, and neck muffer—had been forced into the wound by the shot, and remained there. The wound was perfectly straight, and the windpipe was completely divided, and the vertebrae at the back of the neck were slightly fractured. I have no doubt, from the character of the injury, that the gun must have been presented in a perfectly horizontal position close to the neck of the deceased, and that the clothing, being forced into the wound, prevented the shot from passing completely through the neck. It would have been impossible for the deceased to have uttered a word after he had received the injury, as the vocal chords were completely destroyed. I extracted sixty-five shots from the neck of the deceased. From the appearances which presented themselves, I have no doubt that the man who shot the deceased stood quite close to him at the time the gun was discharged. I think it is extremely probable that the deceased made use of the expression "Oh dear!" when he saw the gun presented at him. He certainly could not have spoken after he received the injury.

Mr. Russon, a superintendent of the Essex constabulary, said—I went to the place where the body was found, and I picked up two pieces of burned paper that appeared to have been used as wadding for a gun, and I afterwards compared them with the portion of newspaper that was taken from the prisoner. I found that all the pieces of paper corresponded with each other, and formed a portion of the "London Journal," of the 29th of September. I also compared the shots that were taken from the body of the deceased with those that were found on the prisoner, and they corresponded also exactly with each other. I subsequently took the gun of the prisoner from the pond where it had been thrown by the witness Wisby, and I found that it had been recently discharged. I took the prisoners William Thurgood and Guiver into custody at their lodgings on the morning of the 19th of February, and examined their guns. They were both loaded, but the shot that was in them were of a totally different description to those in the body of the deceased.

The jury retired, and after a short deliberation they returned their verdict, finding the prisoner, James Thurgood, guilty of being accessory to the murder, stating, at the same time, that they were not quite satisfied with the evidence to show that he had actually discharged the gun. The other three prisoners were acquitted.

James Thurgood was then called up for judgment, and the Learned Judge, having put on the black cap, said he would make a representation of the opinion of the jury that his was not the hand that actually caused the death, but in law, he was equally guilty of the crime of murder, and he could not hold out to him any hope that the representation he should make would be attended with any effect. His Lordship then proceeded to pass sentence of death in the usual form.

##### CHARGE OF MURDER AGAINST A CHILD.

WILLIAM SOPP, whose age was stated to be 12, and who in stature scarcely reached the bar, was arraigned at Reading, on Tuesday, charged with having wilfully murdered Silas Rosier, aged 4 years, at Hungerford, on the 2nd Oct. last. Sopp is the son of a gardener, living at Hungerford, and was in the employ of Mr. Pocock, of that town. On the morning of the 2nd of October last, about 8 o'clock, he was sent from home by his master, with a prong, cord, and bill hook, to cut and fetch some turfs from Hungerford Downs. At half-past eight, Isabella Smith, about twelve years of age, the daughter of a fishmonger, saw the prisoner Sopp walking in a very friendly way with the child, Silas Rosier, along the lane leading from the town to the Downs. There was a stile across the path, and she heard Sopp say, "You can't get over the stile, and I'll lift you over." The child replied, "Yes, I can; I have got over it several times before." They pursued their way to the downs, and were not again seen together. At nine o'clock, Tom Salt, aged nine years, reached Cold Harbour Gate, leading to the downs, and took up his station there, as was his custom, to open the gate for the carriages which came that way, and for doing which he obtained a few pence. He had not been there long when he heard some one call out, "Bill, Bill," and having a brother of that name, and thinking he had been mistaken for him, he turned round, and saw Sopp coming from the direction of a pit, and going towards some turfs. Sopp called out on seeing him, "Tom, here, I want to tell you something." Salt then made his way towards Sopp, and asked him what it was he had to say, and he stated that he should not tell him then.

The dead body of the child Rosier was afterwards found in a pit on the downs, and suspicion falling on the prisoner, he was arrested. The constable Hart, he made the following statement—"When we got on the downs, we turned towards the pits, and I began to cut turfs. The bill-hook came out of the handle as I was chopping, and it hit the poor little fellow on the head. It knocked him down. He tumbled, and rolled about on the ground. I was afraid that people would think I tried to do it, and I should go to gaol, and I killed him." (Great sensation was produced in court by this statement.) Hart then said to Sopp, "You killed him with the bill-hook you gave me last night?" He said, "Yes." Hart inquired in what way he did it, and Sopp replied, "I cut him on the head." He asked him if the little boy made any noise, and he answered, "No, he couldn't."

Mr. Baron Bramwell said this was one of the most painful cases it could be possible for a court of justice to inquire into, on account of the extreme youth of the prisoner, and tender age of the deceased. The law presumed that persons between the ages of seven and fourteen had not knowledge to make them responsible for their acts, if they were of a criminal nature, unless by their skill and intelligence it was shown that they had what the law termed a "mischievous discretion." The boy's statement was extremely probable, and if the jury should be of opinion that death was produced by the accidental blow from the slipping of the bill-hook from the handle, then the other blows were superfluous for producing death, and the heinous offence imputed to the prisoner did not exist. The jury deliberated only a few minutes, and returned a verdict of Not Guilty.



## POLICE INTELLIGENCE.

**AN AWARD MISTAKE.**—On one of the police sheets before the Lambeth Police Court on morning last was a charge against Mrs. H., a widow lady of fortune, of stealing a gold watch, of the value of £100, from the person of Mrs. G., also a widow lady of the same respectability, in one of the Clapham omnibuses. The case was much crowded by friends of the accused and the magistrates were nearly called on for a summary sanction to discharge Mrs. H. from custody.

It appeared that, on the night before, both ladies got into an omnibus running between Oxford Street and Clapham. After the vehicle had passed the Surrey side, Mrs. G. observed her gold watch safe, and attached to the chain. On reaching that part of Vauxhall Road which is intersected by Kennington Lane, she missed it, and charged Mrs. H., who sat next to her, with having robbed her of it. The lady indignantly denied the accusation, and the other passengers expressed it to be their opinion that the charge was unfounded. Mrs. G. as firmly persisted in her accusation, and a policeman coming up, she was about to give the accused into custody, but the latter consented to go to the station-house, and the whole of the other passengers determined on accompanying her. At the Kennington Lane Station the magistrates found an inspector on duty, in the presence of whom Mrs. G. repeated her charge. Before taking it, the Inspector begged her to search well for the missing property, suggesting that it might have got unscrewed from the chain and become concealed in her dress. To this she replied that the watch had been hooked outside her dress, and that therefore it was impossible it could have got inside her clothes. The Inspector still recommended a thorough search, but was rebuffed by the emphatic remark from the lady, "that persons might wish to search himself," and he was left no alternative than that of taking the charge. To this course he was further impelled by the fact, that no person had left the omnibus from the time the complainant had seen her watch safe until she missed it, and therefore it must have been stolen, if stolen at all, by some person in the vehicle. The charge was taken at ten o'clock, but the Inspector, having strong misgivings on the subject, allowed the lady to sit in the reserved room instead of looking her up, and at eleven o'clock accepted the bail of a clergyman and surgeon of Mrs. G., that she remained up until two o'clock, when, on undressing, she discovered the missing watch amongst her dress.

Mrs. G. now expressed the deepest regret at the unfortunate occurrence, and said she was most willing and ready to make any apology that Mrs. H. might require.

The Magistrate observed that the lady who had given the charge had acted under the conviction that her watch had been stolen by the lady who sat by her, and therefore, as the unfortunate circumstances had taken place in perfect error, he hoped the matter would not be carried further.

The Attorney who attended on behalf of Mrs. H., said that he could not at that moment give his Worship any promise or undertaking in the matter, but should further consider the matter, and in doing so would take the wish of his Worship into consideration.

**A TAR AMONG "LAND-LUBBERS."**—At Marylebone, on Saturday last, Patrick Button, a jolly-looking sailor, was charged with uttering a counterfeit sovereign, and also with having several other spurious coins in his possession.

Charles Roberts, of Edgeware Road, deposed that on the previous evening, Button came into his shop for sixpenny-worth of tarts and biscuits, in payment for which he threw down a piece which bore the outward appearance of a sovereign, requesting change. Roberts, finding that it was not a genuine coin, sent for a constable, and gave him into his custody. He declared that he was not aware he had any had money about him, and said that shortly before he had been paid off, after a long voyage, upon the arrival of the ship into port.

The Magistrate examined the pieces; remarked that no tradesman, exercising any caution whatever, could be taken in by such pieces; and asked the prisoner what he had to say in answer to the charge?

Sailor—Well, your honour, soon after I was paid off, a very gentlemanly sort of person met me in Ratcliffe Highway, and asked me if I would have a glass of beer with him. I said, "I don't care if I do," when he took me to a public-house. I was then pretty near "three sheets in the wind." While sitting down in the tap-room, two more gentlemen came in. One of them told me that his name was Gregory, and that by the death of an uncle, a few weeks ago, he had become possessed of no less a sum than £7,000, but that he was compelled to pay out of it £500 to the Irish poor—£150 to go to Dublin, and £150 to Cork. He asked me if I knew Cork. I said, "I do, well; and if you have any messages to send there, I will take them, as I am going there in a few days." He told me that if I would do so, he would give me, for my trouble, a sovereign, to purchase a new hat, and that he would give me the £150 if I would swear I would deliver the money to the Mayor of Cork. "I'll deliver the same safe and all right, my worthy gentleman," I said, and I gave him my bag, as he said he would drop the sovereign into it for my new hat. He returned to me the bag, and all three of the land-lubbers went away, leaving me without the £150 for the Mayor of Cork.

The Magistrate—After they were gone, did you examine the money in your bag?

Sailor—No, your honour; I didn't know that I had been pecked up by these land sharks till I was taken into custody. I have not now a shot in the locker to bless myself with. The coins had on one side the head of the Queen, and on the other the words "Off to Hanover."

The accused, whose version of the affair was believed to be true, was then discharged.

**FRAUD AND SUICIDE.**—The agents of the South-Western Railway attended at the Lambeth Police Court on Saturday last to prosecute a charge of fraud upon the company by Mr. William Dunn, a gentleman residing at Shortwood House, Staines, and against whom a summons had been granted.

The prosecutors having remained in attendance until two o'clock, and the defendant at that hour not making his appearance, the case was entered upon. It appeared that in the year 1851, Mr. Dunn purchased a ticket which enabled him to travel by the South-Western line of railway from the station at Staines, near to which he resided, to town and back, and by this ticket it would be proved he continued to travel by the first-class carriages ever since, thereby committing a gross and shabby fraud on the company. Knowing him to have been a season ticket holder, the company's servants took it for granted that, as a supposed man of honour and a gentleman, he had continued to renew his ticket, and by this means he was enabled to carry on the fraud until an accident discovered the deception. Having, some days ago, occasion to stop at Mortlake, the Station-Master asked Mr. Dunn for his ticket, when he drew from his pocket a covered season-ticket, and exhibited it unopened. The Station-Master, from something he had observed, requested permission to inspect the ticket, and at this moment Mr. Dunn was seized with a most unaccountable anxiety to go to the water-closet, and rushed there. There he remained for some time, and, in fact, until the arrival of a train, when, doubtless, he hoped to get off in the bustle; but the Station-Master, intent on his purpose, watched him closely, got the ticket from him, and then discovered, as was perfectly apparent, that, while out of his sight, Mr. Dunn changed the figure four to a six. The officers of the company thereupon obtained a summons. That summons had been served personally, as stated by the officer, and Mr. Dunn had promised to attend to it, but he did not think proper to do so, and they had therefore to apply for a warrant against him.

A proof of personal service having been given, the warrant was granted.

On Monday morning, shortly after the Magistrate took his seat on the bench, one of the summoning officers informed him that on Saturday evening the warrant was placed in his hands, and on going to the Waterloo terminus on that morning for the purpose of proceeding to Staines to execute it, he learned that information had been received at the different police-stations on the day before, that a man, answer-

ing in every particular the description given of Mr. Dunn, had drowned himself at the Old Royal Baths in Newgate Street, and recommended him, in the first instance, to proceed there. He did so, and on seeing the body, at once recognised the person on whom he had served the summons. On making inquiries, the keeper of the bath informed him that about nine on Saturday night the deceased came there and ordered a private bathing bath, and a bath-room was prepared for him, which he entered, and at that time nothing was observed in his appearance to excite the slightest suspicion. Nothing more was heard of him until eleven, when the place was about to be locked up, and at that time he was found lying in a reclining position, with his head and chest out of the water, and life quite extinct. His gold watch, gold spectacles, two rings, and a small sum of money, were found on the table, and from documents found in his pockets it would appear that he was very much involved. Amongst the documents was found a letter from a respectable legal firm, threatening immediate proceedings against him unless £3,000 and odd was paid. On Tuesday an inquest was held on the body, when evidence was given that the deceased had been drinking very freely on the afternoon of the day of his death, and the jury thereupon returned a verdict of accidental death.

**A WORTHY COUPLE.**—Rammo Sammee, a native of Africa, a well-known smasher, and Ann Price, a passer of counterfeit coin, were charged at the Mansion House, on Tuesday, with uttering a base sixpence at the bar of the Dyer's Arms Tavern, City.

It appeared that on Saturday last, the prisoners called at the bar for a pint of beer, for which they handed a bad sixpence. The African was searched by a police-constable, who found eight more coins of a similar description wrapped in a piece of paper. Miss Price had been in custody before.

A police officer stated that the base money had been examined, and found not to be imitations of the current coin of the realm, but small medals, plated and galvanised, for the purpose of sounding like silver.

The Lord Mayor said he must, under the peculiar circumstances of the case, discharge the prisoners, as the Act of Parliament only gave him power to deal with cases where the base coin tendered was made to imitate the current coin. He should discharge the prisoners, but a copy of the depositions of the case, and the base coin, he should order to be forwarded to the Secretary of State, to show the defective state of the present law.

The prisoners, to their great astonishment, were discharged.

## MONEY OPERATIONS OF THE WEEK.

ALTHOUGH the scarcity of money for commercial and other purposes continues to be felt, a very important change has taken place in the general features of the consol market, owing to the steady progress of the peace negotiations at Paris. Speculators have operated freely, and large amounts of stock—estimated at over £1,000,000 sterling—have been purchased. Prices have, consequently, improved, with every prospect of higher rates. The 3 per cents have been done at 91½ to 91¾; and for time, 91½ to 92. Consols scrip has marked 1½ prem. Exchequer bills are 2s. discount to 1s. prem; ditto, advertised, 3s. to 2s. discount. The bonds have sold at 98 to 98½. India stock, 23½ to 22½; Bank stock, 21½ to 21¾. The Reduced Three have realised 91½ to 92½; and the new 3 per cents, 92½ to 93½. Much disappointment has been expressed in the City that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has not thought it necessary to increase the interest on the next issue of Exchequer Bills to 3d. per diem. It is true that at the present time those securities are at a very low point; but we may be sure of one thing, viz., that a return to a state of peace will have an immense influence upon the money market generally, and that the bills will, consequently, rise in price. We have had an arrival of nearly £400,000 from Australia, and about £140,000 from New York. The shipments to the Continent have been trifling; but not less than £470,598 in gold and silver has been forwarded to India and China.

The foreign house has been very firm, and prices have steadily improved. Transactions have taken place in Brazil 10 per cents at 102½; Cuba 7 per cents, 101; Ecuador, 1½; Peruvian, 80; Mexican 3 per cents, 20½; Spanish deferred, 23½; Sardinian 5 per cents, 101½; French 3 per cents, 73½; 50c.; Russian 5 per cents, 101½; Turkish 6 per cents, 96½; the 4 per cents, 100½; and the small bonds, 95½.

The market for Joint-stock Bank shares has been firm, at very full prices. Bank of London shares have been 64; British North American, 65½; London and County, 33½; London Joint-stock, 28½; London and Westminster, 44½; Union of Australia, 73; and Union of London, 27.

Miscellaneous securities have ruled as follows:—Australia Agricultural, 25½; Canada 6 per cents, 108½; Crystal Palace, 24; General Screw Steam Shipping Company, 10½; Mexican and South American, 5½; South Australian Land, 35; Van Dieman's Land, 15½.

All railway shares have been active, and dearer. Caledonian, 57½; Eastern Counties, 92½; Edinburgh, Perth, and Dundee, 26½; Great Northern, 93½; do. A Stock, 79; Great Southern and Western (Ireland), 103½; Great Western, 60½; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 83½; London and Brighton, 99; London and North-Western, 100½; London and South-Western, 94; Midland, 70½; Norfolk, 53; North British, 30½; North Staffordshire, 11; Scottish Central, 104; South Devon, 12½; South Eastern, 66½; South Wales, 73.

The market for mining shares has been very inactive. St. John del Rey have realised 27; United Mexican, 3½.

## METROPOLITAN MARKETS.

**CORN EXCHANGE.**—The arrivals of English wheat up to our market, this week, have been very moderate; nevertheless, the demand for all kinds has ruled heavily in the extreme, at a decline in the quotations of from 6s. to 8s. per quarter. Foreign wheats have continued very dull, at an improvement of 1s. per quarter; but other kinds have moved off slowly, on former terms. Malt has been lower to purchase, with a heavy inquiry. There has been a dull sale for oats, and prices have given way 1s. to 2s. per quarter. Both beans and peas have moved off heavily, at 1s. to 2s. per quarter less money. The flour trade has been in a most depressed state, at 4s. per sack decline. The top price of town-made qualities is now 63s. per sack.

**ENGLISH CURRENCY.**—Essex and Kent White Wheat, 54s. to 73s.; do. Red, 49s. to 68s.; Malt, 34s. to 40s.; Distilling do., 32s. to 35s.; Grinding do., 31s. to 36s.; Malt, 56s. to 74s.; Rye, 44s. to 47s.; Feed Oats, 21s. to 27s.; Potato do., 24s. to 30s.; Tuck Beans, 31s. to 34s.; Pigeon, 37s. to 44s.; White Peas, 40s. to 44s.; Maple, 32s. to 35s.; Gray, 32s. to 36s. per quarter. Town-made Flour, 61s. to 63s.; Town Households, 51s. to 54s.; Norfolk and Suffolk, 46s. to 48s. per 250 lbs.

**CATTLE.**—We have to report a dull trade for beasts, the supplies of which have been tolerably good, at a decline in the quotations of from 2d. to 4d. per cwt. Sheep have come freely to hand, and the mutton trade has ruled heavy, at a fall in value of 2d. per cwt. Calves have given way 6d. per cwt. In Pigs, very little has been doing, at barely last week's currency. Beef, 3s. to 4s. 6d.; Mutton, 3s. 2d. to 4s. 10d.; Veal, 4s. to 5s. 6d.; Pork, 3s. 4d. to 4s. 8d. per cwt. to sink the offer.

**NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL.**—About an average business has been transacted in these markets, as follows:—Beef, from 2s. 8d. to 4s. 2d.; mutton, 2s. 6d. to 4s. 4d.; veal, 3s. 8d. to 5s.; pork, 3s. 2d. to 4s. 10d. per cwt. by the carcass.

**TEA.**—We have a slow sale for all kinds, and prices are barely supported. Congou, 9d. to 2s. 6d.; Ning Yung and Oolong, 10d. to 1s. 9d.; Souchong, 9d. to 2s. 8d.; Flowery Pekoe, 1s. 5d. to 3s. 6d.; Caper, 1s. to 1s. 8d.; Scented Caper, 1s. to 1s. 8d.; Orange Pekoe, 1s. 1d. to 1s. 4d.; Scented Orange Pekoe, 1s. 9d. to 2s. 9d.; Twankay, 8d. to 1s. 2d.; Hyson Skin, 7d. to 1s.; Hyson, 1s. 5d. to 3s. 9d.; Young Hyson, 9d. to 3s.; Imperial, 1s. to 2s. 9d.; Gunpowder, 1s. to 3s. 6d.; Assam, 1s. to 4s. 4d. per lb. The delivery, last week, was 563,952 lbs.

**SUGAR.**—Since our last report, a steady business has been

transacted in most kinds of raw sugar, and prices have ruled the turn in favour of importers. Several rather large parcels of crushed have changed hands for shipment to the Continent, at 32s. 6d. to 33s. per cwt. Dutch crushed may be quoted at 19s. to 22s. The stock generally is light.

**MOLASSES.**—A few parcels of Antigua have changed hands at low as 17s. per cwt. The demand continues heavy.

**COFFEE.**—Our market is in a very inactive state, and good Ceylon may be had at 50s. 6d. per cwt.

**COCOA.**—This article is heavy, and may be purchased on lower terms. Red Trinidad, 47s. to 53s.; gray, 45s. to 47s.; Grenada, 42s. to 47s.; St. Vincent's, 37s. to 40s.; Bahia, 39s. to 40s.; and Guayaquil, 47s. to 49s. per cwt.

**RICE.**—We have to report a very dull market for all kinds of rice, and prices are fully 6d. per cwt. lower. The stock is now 18,078 tons, against 5,810 tons last year, 14,304 in 1854, and 14,891 tons in 1853. The supplies on passage are immense.

**PROVISIONS.**—English butter, especially fine qualities, has realised more money; but the demand is by no means active, Irish and foreign butters rule about stationary. The bacon market is very dull, at late rates.

**LEATHER.**—We have less doing in this market, and prices are with difficulty supported.

**SALTPETRE.**—Importers are less firm in their demands. Prices, however, are maintained. The stock is now 4,422 tons, against 11,506 tons in 1855, 3,625 in 1854, and 2,926 in 1853.

**NITRATE OF SODA.**—The market is heavy, at 18s. 3d. per cwt.

**WOOL.**—The colonial wools will be brought to a close this week. They are still progressing briskly, at fully the opening quotations. Privately, the demand is steady, and the best Down wools are worth 1s. 4d. per lb.

**FRUIT.**—Turkey figs are in good request, at 40s. to 70s.; Jordan almonds, 120s. to 180s. Currants move off steadily, at full quotations; but Muscatels are drooping in price.

**SPIRITS.**—We have a moderate demand for rum, and prices are well supported. Proof leewards, 2s. 3d. to 2s. 4d.; East India, 2s. to 2s. 1d. per gallon. The brandy market is heavy, at barely late rates. Sales of Cognac, best brands of 1851, 10s. 4d. to 10s. 6d.; 1850, ditto, 10s. 5d. to 10s. 7d.; older, 10s. 8d. to 11s. 6d.; and low to middling, 6s. 6d. to 10s. 2d. per gallon. British-made spirit is selling at 10s. 5d.; proof gin, 17 under proof, 9s. 10d.; 22 ditto, 9s. 4d. per gallon. Geneva, 2s. 9d. to 3s. 5d. with a brisk sale.

**COTTON.**—An extensive business is still passing in our market, and prices continue to have an upward tendency. Surat, 4d. to 5d.; Bengal, 3½d. to 4d.; and Madras, 3½d. to 4½d. per lb.

**HEMP AND FLAX.**—Clean hemp is still drooping in price with a heavy market. Flax is dull, at barely last week's prices. Jute and coir goods command scarcely any attention.

**INDIGO.**—Our market is very firm, and holders generally refuse to sell except at very full prices.

**METALS.**—The business doing in the iron market is very moderate, on former terms. Tin is dull. Banca, 130s.; Straits, 128s. to 129s. Tin plates, however, are very firm. Lead moves off briskly, at 26s. 10s. to 27 for British pig. Spelter, on the spot, 23s. 12s. 6d. per ton.

**OILS.**—Lined oil, on the spot, 35s. 6d. per cwt. Southern whale, £47 to £49; rape, 48s. 6d. to 52s. 6d.; Cocoa-nut, 36s. 6d. to 38s.; palm, 39s. to 41s. Turpentine is steady. Rough, 9s. 6d. to 9s. 9d.; English spirits, 32s. 6d. to 33s.; and American, 34s. per cwt.

**TALLOW.**—The demand is steady, and P.Y.C. on the spot is quoted at 59s. per cwt. Town tallow, 51s. 6d. net cash; rough fat, 2s. 10d. The stock of tallow is now 37,725 casks, against 36,610 casks in 1855; 35,702 in 1854; and 37,818 in 1853.

**COALS.**—Tanfield Moor, 15s.; Sunderland, 15s. to 17s. 6d.; other kinds, 14s. 9d. to 17s. 3d. per ton.

## LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 29.

**BANKRUPTcies ANNOUNCED.**—EDWIN WINSOM, Crofton, pianoforte dealer—THOMAS WHITEHEAD and JOSEPH LASSKY, Morley, Yorkshire, dyers.

**BANKRUPTcies.**—JAMES TOMLIN, City, shipowner—ROBERT DULLAM, Tipton, chemist, druggist, and grocer—HENRY SMITH, Sedgely, Staffordshire, farmer—GROBE DAVIS, Wigmore Street, Cavendish Square, cabinetmaker—JACOB WM. HENRY SCHAEFER and WM. HENRY BROWN, Finch Street, City, merchants—THOMAS JOHN NICKS, Coleman Street, City, rope maker—RICHARD JENKIN POLGLASE, Borough Road, millwright and engineer—WILLIAM MCKECKSEY, Broadway, Plaistow, Essex, merchant—JAMES MECHIE, Battersea Fields, engineer—JOHN DOUGLAS, York, hosier—CHARLES FOX, Scarborough, merchant—WILLIAM SOTHERN, Liverpool, glass dealer—THOMAS BURNETT, Blaydon, Durham, glass bottle manufacturer—WILLIAM CARTER, jun., Leamington Priors, Warwickshire, ironmonger—THOMAS SMITH, Nottingham, lace manufacturer—HENRY PRING, Old Market, Bristol, baker and flour dealer—RICHARD GIBBLE, Pilton, Devon, carpenter and builder—THOMAS EMERSON, Milton Street, City, builder—ALFRED JOHN GREEN, New Cut, Lambeth, brushmaker.

**SCOTCH SEQUESTERATIONS.**—C. GLASS and G. DUNCAN, Glasgow, booksellers—P. FINDLAY, Glasgow, merchant—J. M'ARTHUR, Glasgow, provision merchant—J. SCANDERS, Glasgow, wright—J. ROWLAND, late of Glasgow, surgeon.

TUESDAY, MARCH 4.

**BANKRUPTcies.**—WILLIAM BENNETT, Margaret Street, Cavendish Square, Middlesex, victualler—WILLIAM HOMER, Birmingham, publican—ROBERT NEWTON, Birmingham, baker—JAMES BAKER, South Street, Exeter, linen-draper—CHARLES EDWARD BIRD, Old Broad Street, merchant—THOMAS HILL, City Road, licensed victualler—CHARLES PARIS POOLE, Lawrence Lane, City, warehouseman—HENRY BRISBAND, Birmingham, button manufacturer—SAMPSON BRAZIER, Golden Common, Hants, brick maker, &c.—JOHN HISCOCK, Brook Street, Holborn, boot and shoe manufacturer—THOMAS WARREN KNIGHT, Fore Street, Taunton, grocer—ROBERT WELSH, Huddersfield, woollen merchant—THOMAS JONES, Shrewsbury, draper—JOHN YOUNG, Surrey Street, Strand, ale and porter merchant—CHARLES HYACINTH and JOSEPH CUYLITS, Cullum Street, City, merchants—WILLIAM M'COMBICK, Manchester, builder—JOHN TAVIS and THOMAS DUFFIN KERSHAW, Shaw, Lancashire, cotton spinners—HENRY SMITHIES, JOHN SMITHIES, and JAMES SMITHIES, Blackburn, ironfounders—WILLIAM SMITH, Bradford, grocer—DAVID KAY, Liverpool, flour dealer.

**SCOTCH SEQUESTERATIONS.**—JAMES MURRAY, Glasgow, manufacturer—JOSEPH SPENCE, Edinburgh, deceased—ROBERT PAYTON, Glasgow, cabinet maker—ALEXANDER NICOL, Findhorn, merchant—ROBERT PATERSON, Brewsterford, near Calder, grocer—WILKIE BROTHERS, Glasgow accountants—GEORGE BANKS, Edinburgh, shoemaker.

## MARK YOUR LINEN.—THE PEN SUPER-

SEDED. The most Easy, Permanent, and Best Method of Marking Linen, Silk, Cotton, Rough Towels, Books, &c., is with the PATENT ELECTRO-SILVER PLATES; by means of which a thousand articles can be marked in ten minutes. Any person can easily use them. Initial Plate, 1s.; Name Plate, 2s.; Crest Plate, 5s.; Set of Numbers, 2s. Sent free to any part of the kingdom (on receipt of Stamps) by the Inventor and Sole Patentee, T. CULLETON, 2, Long Acre, one door from St. Martin's Lane.

**HOWARD'S ENAMEL for the TEETH.** Price ONE SHILLING. For stopping decayed Teeth, however large the cavity. It is placed in the tooth in a soft state without any pressure or pain, and immediately hardens into a White Enamel; it will remain in the tooth many years, rendering extraction unnecessary, and arresting the further progress of decay. Sold by SANGER, 150, Oxford Street; HANNAH, 63, Oxford Street; SAVORY, 230, Regent Street; BUTLER, 4, Cheapside; and all Medicine Vendors in the Kingdom. Price ONE Shilling.

**MR. ALBERT SMITH'S MONT BLANC.** Holland, Up the Rhine, and Paris, is NOW OPEN every Evening except Saturday, at eight o'clock. Stalls (which can be taken from a plan) 1st the box-office, every day between eleven and four, without any extra charge; 2nd, area, 2s.; gallery, 1s. The Morning Representations take place every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, at 3 o'clock Egyptian Hall.

**MOORE'S LEVER WATCHES,** made on the premises, £3 5s., £6 6s., £7 7s. Gold do., £10. Gold Horizontally, £3 10s. Silver do., £2 2s. Levers, 10 holes Jewelled, £3 10s., warranted, 27, Holborn Hill. Established 1835. Brief elucidation of the Lever Watch, gratis.

**WATCH MANUFACTORY,** 33, Ludgate Hill, London. Established 1749. J. W. BENSON, manufacturer of Gold and Silver WATCHES of every description, construction, and pattern, from Two to Sixty Guineas each. A new pamphlet of sketches and prices sent free on application. A Two Years' Warranty given with every Watch, and sent, carriage paid, to Scotland, Ireland, Wales, or any part of the Kingdom, upon receipt of Post Office or Bankers' Order. Gold, Silver, and Old Watches taken in Exchange.

**SILVER WATCHES,** £2 2s., £2 15s., to £5. Highly-finished, Horizontal Movements, Jewelled in Four Holes, with all the recent improvements. Sound and accurate Time-keepers. J. W. BENSON, 33, Ludgate Hill.

**SILVER WATCHES** £3 10s., £5 5s., to £15 15s. Patent Detached English Lever Movements, Jewelled, &c. Strong Double-Backed Cases. J. W. BENSON, 33, Ludgate Hill.

**GOLD WATCHES** £3 15s., £5 5s., to £15 15s. Highly-finished Movements, Jewelled, with all the recent improvements. Engraved or Engine-Turned Cases. Warranted to keep accurate Time. J. W. BENSON, 33, Ludgate Hill.

**GOLD WATCHES,** £6 6s., £8 8s., to £15 15s. Each, Highly-finished, Patent Detached Lever Movements, Jewelled, Richly Engraved or Engine-Turned Cases. J. W. BENSON, 33, Ludgate Hill.

**GOLD WATCHES,** Patent Detached Lever Movements. London-Made, First-Class Watches, 10, 12, 15, to 60 Guineas each. J. W. BENSON, 33, Ludgate Hill.

**EAU DE VIE.**—Decidedly more pure in its composition, more agreeable in its use, and more salutary in its effects, than Cognac brandy at double the price. Imperial gallon, 16s.; in French bottles, 34s. per dozen, bottles included; securely packed in a case for the country, 35s.—HENRY BRETT and Co., Old Farnival's Distillery, Holborn.

**UNSOPHISTICATED GIN.**—The strongest allowed by law, of the true juniper flavour, and precisely as it runs from the still, without the addition of sugar or any ingredient whatever. Imperial gallon, 13s.; in pale glass bottles, 28s. per dozen, bottles included; securely packed in a case for the country, 29s.—HENRY BRETT & Co., Old Farnival's Distillery, Holborn.

**GOOD LIVER OIL, LIGHT BROWN AND PALE NEWFOUNDLAND.**—The above Oils may be had pure, sweet, and genuine, of JAMES SLIPPER, Wholesale and Export Druggist, 57, Leather Lane, and 14 and 15, Dorington Street, Holborn. Light Brown, from Norway, is 6d. per pint, 2s. 6d. per quart; Pale Newfoundland, 2s. per pint, 3s. 6d. per quart.

**ALEXANDRE'S PATENT HARMONIUM.** The New Model with Expression by the Hand. This INSTRUMENT far exceeds all other Harmoniums, and is deemed to be the most perfect that can be made. It has been approved, and is now in daily use by MM. Thalberg, Liszt, Lefebvre-Wely, Madame Duflos, Madame Sieves, &c. Prospectuses, with particulars and prices, may be obtained at Messrs. CRAMER, BEAL, and Co.'s, 201, Regent Street, who have entered into an agreement with Messrs. ALEXANDRE, the inventor, for the introduction and sale of those instruments in England. The prices vary from 10 to 55 guineas.

**JULLIEN and CO.'S CORNET-PISTONS.** Approved and tried by HERR KENIG.

No. 1.—The Drawing-room Cornet-a-Pistons (by Court-tois), used by Herr Kaug . . . . . £8 8 0  
2.—The Concert-room Cornet-a-Pistons (by Court-tois), used by Herr Kaug at M. Jullien's Concert . . . . . 8 8 0  
3.—The Military Cornet-a-Pistons . . . . . 6 6 0  
4.—The Amateur Cornet-a-Pistons . . . . . 5 5 0  
5.—The Ordinary Cornet-a-Pistons (First quality) . . . . . 3 3 0  
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